The Siamese Lạ̄nnaa†

(Gon Muang Daiy)

Kit Tiyapan

>: Kittix

† This spelling 'Lạ̄nnaa' used in the title is Lanna. Compare this with the Thai spelling, 'Lạ̄nṇạ' and the English 'Lanna'.

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We live on Vijàyạnonḍa Road, next to the Vàrọros Market and on the opposite side of the Tônlaṃyai Market. This is Nobḅuriṇ Śriṇ Nàgaurbingġa Jiangmhăị, usually known as Jiangmhăị or Viangbingġa, now in the northern part of Thailand. Mangrạy (or Mengrạy, d. 1317) the Great built this city in 1296 as the capital of his kingdom Lạ̄nnạ. He was the son of Meng and had ruled the Hiraynàgaur Ngoenyạng in 1259. He united the Lạ̄nnạ Kingdom, built Jiangrạy in 1262, and in 1278 moved to Fhạng. For decades the Thai people called the culture of this area Lạnnạ, which literally means the *plain of paddy-fields.* Later those who knew pointed out to them that it was not *lạn* but *lạ̄n*, and so the true name means instead *a million rice-fields.* The Mangrạy Dynasty reigned in this region for two centuries before it fell into the hands of the Burmese in 1558. After Tạksin the Great had driven these away in 1774, the kingdom became Siam's. During Rama I's reign it was a *pradẹśàrạj* (colony), in Rama V's reign it became a *moṇḍol* (prefecture), and in Rama VII a *cangvhad́* (province). The oldest temple within the city wall, the *vad́* (temple) Jiangmàn, was built in the same year that the city was founded. Also built during his reign is the Umongġa Temple which is to the west of the city towards the Sudẹb Mountain.

Around 1824 Mangrạy captured Laṃbụn, that is Hàribhụyjay, and handed it over to one of his officers, Àyfā, to rule. He then built a town to the northeast, where he remained for two years before building another town near the bank of the Ping River in 1826 and called it *viang* (city) Kumkạm. This town now lies a few kilometres to the southeast of the present city Jiangmhăị. When he built the Nobḅuriṇ Śriṇàgaurbingġa Jiangmhăị he consulted it over with Ròang (Rạmgamhạeng) in Sukhọday and Ngaṃmuang in Bayao. The building of the town took 4 months to complete.

Lạ̄nnạ had two dynasties.† The Mengrạy Dynasty comprises Mengrạy who reigned during 1258 – 1317; Jaysonggrạm, 1317 – 1327; Sạenfụ, 1327 – 1334; Gaṃfụ, 1334 – 1345; Phạyụ, 1345 – 1367; Kụenạ, 1367 – 1388; Sạenmuangmạ, 1388 – 1411; Sạmfhăngkạen, 1411 – 1442; Tilọkàrạj, 1442 – 1487; Yaud́jiangrạy, 1487 – 1495; Muangkàew, 1495 – 1525; Muangkẹs̈klào, 1525 – 1538, and 1543 – 1545; Drạygaṃ, 1538 – 1543; Ciràprabhạmàhạdẹvị, 1545 – 1546; Jaiyjẹs̈thạdhirạj, 1546 – 1548; and Mẹkuṭi, 1558. Then the kingdom fell and was ruled by the Burmese until 1774. Then with the founding of Bangkok the Burmese were expelled from the north and the Dibàcakrà Dynasty was established. It has as kings Kạvila who ruled during 1782 – 1813; Darrmàlankạ, 1813 – 1821; Gaṃfhân, 1821 – 1824; Buddhàvongśxa, 1824 – 1846; Màhọtrpradẹś, 1846 – 1853; Kạvilọros Suriyàvongśxa, 1853 – 1870; Indàràvijàyạnonḍa,

† Compare, Aruṇ Vẹjsuvarrṇ. *Bra Rạjàjạya Cào Ḍạraraśàmị kaḅ kạr roam họamuang bhạg nhụa.* Aruṇ Vidàyạ. 2000.

1870 – 1896; Indårå Vårorossuriyåvongśxa, 1902 – 1909; and Kàew Nåvåraṭh, 1909 – 1939.

Lìam is one of our servants and my nurse. She looks after me. She takes me to kindergarten where one evening I see a last spider the size of my outspread hand. It lives in the hole underground. I think it is deadly also, but it does not like killing people. But today it stands here in full view on the ground. It seems to be at lost and walks cautiously about. A crowd gathers and follows it everywhere. There are also the bees. We call it *phùenglhoang* (Apis dorsata). They always build their hive in high places, for example under a branch of the *tòn yoanphùeng* (Kompassia alaccensis), *tòn yạng* (Dipterocarpus tuberculatus or D. alatus), or underneath the tank that sits on top of the water tower. The bees are to the farmers like what the royal albatross is to the seamen. They are particularly important in a horticultural farm, since they help carrying the pollen from the stamen to the stigma, thereby making the yields more fruitful. Other types of bee include *phùeng brọng* (A. cerana) and *phùeng mīm* (A. florea). The nectar gathered from the flowers is kept inside the honey bag which is connected to the oesophagus, and then metabolised by an enzyme in the bee's stomach. The glucose and fructose are changed into inverted sugars, that is the levulose and dextrose. This happens in the air while the bee is on its way back to the hive. Bees are also bred in movable-comb hive where there are slots into which you insert the frames containing the artificial honeycombs. You can rear the *phùeng brọng* or *phùeng bandhu* (A. mellifera), not Phùeng Lhoang, which is wild. The best thing to do when collecting the hive of wild bee is to only drive away using smoke the bees from the end of the hive which has the honey. The usual practice of burning the whole hive is horrendous and will soon put the future of the species in jeopardy. I can not imagine the world without these bee-hives. It probably would look too city-like, less a place to live and die in.

I always have trouble when I wake up, of finding where I am and how I come to be sleeping there. I often go to bed with my head towards one direction only to wake up and find that it points towards another, and not the least often the opposite one. Nothing is like sleeping when you are young. You become oblivion for ten hours and need to reconcile with yourself upon coming to. And there is never a lack of dreams, and these dreams are more adventurous and memorable than your waking life. The trouble is, who knows why you always forget them. Sometimes I wake up and miss my dream so badly that I try to get back to sleep again to be in it again. Usually this is possible if you are quick enough, but sometimes these latter part of the dream is half a dream and half an imagination because you are half awake and half asleep. At times the dream and the self seem almost inseparable the one from the other, were it not for the element of absurdities normally found only in the case of the former.

There are on average around 56 students in each class at the primary school. I never study but always find myself among the first five of my class in my study. Then I begin to study more decently, but still manage only second or third. By contrast, Ṣẹm always comes first, not only among his classmates but also in all the classes. Sadly he is not doing this well in the high school and university's level. It could be that our childhood self moves from the conscious- into the subconscious realm of our brain, as a consequence of which we come a different person from the child. I would rather not think that there is anything amiss in our educational system.

Whenever I need to make a decision my father always tells me to think for myself. 'Gûeḍ ao ẹ̀ǹg', that is *think for yourself* he would say. Sometimes I silently disapprove with this saying of his. 'Well, tell me what I should do,' I would think, 'What do you expect me to make up my own mind? I am only a child!' But I never say this out loud of course. Freedom is something you never decline. Anyway when you are of my age your life seems to stretch infinitely before you, as though you shall never die let along grow old. All lives are a tragedy, no matter whether we think of them individually or collectively, for instance when we consider a person, a society or culture. It is only if you think in terms of the whole universe that it begins to become comprehensible and even harmonious.

The first classical music I listen to is Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 (1808) in C minor. One day I went to a record shop on our street and asked the owner to suggest some classical music for me to listen to. He recorded the said song together with Schubert's Unfinished Symphony on to a tape cassette which I brought back and listen to. Listening to the Fifth Symphony I imagine the knocking on the door announcing the onset of deafness. Then comes the violin passage which rushes around, trying to escape from the hands of Fate, then the pastoral stroll in nature after which a conciliation becomes possible when he accepts and joins hands with faith. With Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) the Romantic movement in music began. He also lifts the status of a composer from being a mere servant to aristocrats and audiences to that of a creating philosopher, author and artist. At one party of aristocrats one among the audiences did not keep his silence and behave, so he stopped playing and said, 'I do not play for such swine'. I have been searching for some time what it is he actually said in German. He influences numerous later composers, for example Ferencz Liszt (1811 – 1886) and Wagner. It is true, at least in the case of Franz Peter Schubert (1797 – 1828), that those who gods love die young. He lived to be thirty-one but has given the world an amazing amount of repertoire than one could dare imagine possible. With his *Lieder* (songs) he single-handedly starts off the long chain of songs which, though become less fervent now, could never possibly die. Example of composers who carry on this song tradi-

tion are Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897), Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918), Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924), Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907), Gustav Mahler (1860 – 1911), Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856) and Hugo Wolf (1860 – 1903). There is another Franz Schubert (1808 – 1878), a violinist who is generally mentioned only in order not to confuse him for his namesake. Even his *L'Abeille* (the bee) is now thought to be written by the other Schubert.

We move into our new house in Santidharrm, and from here everyday commute to our shop in town. The new place is outside the town and in a rather deserted area. There are only three identical houses in the whole area, surrounded by *maiyárạḥ* (Mimosa pudica). This must be the best weed in the world, for it is so tough and aggressive, and it has the hideous thorns. Despite the marsh which surrounds us on all sides, the ground of our house is dry like a desert and the house looks puny, the parquet on the floor artificial, and the outward appearance totally void of characters. Within months of after we move in my father changes all this. First he has the front balcony extended to make a decent garage underneath. Then he has the whole place repainted. The fences need to go up and the bars are fitted into every door and window. We need these latter later several times. He also gets himself a gun, and we would need this too. If a thief comes to our house, my father would fire the thing up to the sky. If he comes in front, he will do this from the back of the house in order not to risk having to shoot or exchange fire with him in case he should have a gun. Normally the thief would know then that it is time to leave. I used to imagine myself shooting with a thief like a cowboy.

A year or two later the YMCA moves to the plot of land behind us. Their high buildings soon deprives us the view of the Sudẹb mountain. Then they put the car park behind us. But with them we feel more secure, and people come and build their houses all around here.

My favourite singer is John Denver, and my favourite song his *Country Road*. The books I like are the light novel series known as the *Bol, Nikaur, Kimnghoan* from the names of the characters in them who are friends whose life together is at the same time adventurous, fun, funny and peaceful. They are written by P Indȧpạlit. These are in a way similar to the *Harry Potter* that we have now, but I still prefer the former even now because they have more to say. When I have exhausted all the books in the *Bol, Nikaur, Kimnghoan* series, I turn to reading the *kaṃlangbhạynaị*† These books are originally written in Taiwan. There are two famous translators who translate them into Thai, namely N

† Literally, 'internal power', that mythical and mystic power in our body and in nature that we can tap, harness and use. The idea has been used in the film Star Wars when, for example, Luke Skywalker's Jedi teacher lifts the spaceship from a bog, neither touching it nor with a crane, and in the Jedi's definition of *force* in general.

Nobàratṅa and V ṇà Muanglung, both names of which are a pseudonym. These novels are to a culture like our dreams to us. Taiwan's Chinese had fought and lost the battles with the communists in the mainland China. Mentally they need to win and to vent their grief of the lost paradise through their works in the form of the world which they create in such a way that it upholds all the social values that they feel no longer exists in their beloved homeland. Between the two translators mentioned I prefer NN to VM because the latter like to translate the more philosophical works, for example those by Kọ̄wlḛ̄ng which bore me at best and puzzle me otherwise. I like those stories that NN translates where our protagonist is a boy of twelve whose family has perished by the hands of some powerful, hideous people. He somehow gets into a jungle and in a seemingly bottomless gorge. Here he meets a hermit who takes pity on him and teaches him the way of the force. At sixteen he says goodbye to his teacher to go after his family business and to save the world. With the force he has with him the superhuman ability whereby, for example, jumping three times without much effort he reaches the top of the valley and so on. O, my power of imagination is never again to be like what it is now when I am a child and reading the *Bol, Nikaur, Kimnghoan* and *Kaṃlang bhạynaị*. I look at the cloud formation in the sky and see all sorts of thing there. When I read, the story becomes so vivid in my imagination that I often can not put the book down, but keep reading on all night. As the result of this my eyesight quickly deteriorates.

At the moment no other leading actors command a higher regard than Alain Delon (b. 1935). As for Thai actors, Mitr Jayḅayjạ falls off the helicopter and dies while acting for a film which becomes his last. Somḅati Mḛdinị is unassailable both as an actor and in all the films that he appears. Saurábonggà Jạtrị, who is to become his successor in this respect, is yet to appear on the scene. Thai movies faithfully follows the attitude and style of the Hollywood, and the main instrument and mean are shooting with Mafias on the farms. I find books infinitely better than films. Those written by P Indàpạlit are witty and amusing without being vulgar while those which N Nobàratṅa translates give an endless source for the imagination.

I become interested in Astronomy and talk about it at school until Lhim and Siddhi, too, become interested in it. I read books on the subject and that of Cosmology in the library at the Chiangmai University, and I build my first telescope. It is only a refractive one, but I want also to grind my own mirror to make a reflector. I buy a convex lens from an optician who does not know its focal length, which I find by using it to gather the sunlight into a point on the ground to be three-quarters of a metre.

At home, Dạ helps me cut a plastic tube to the required length. The rings placed inside the telescope to keep the lens in its place are also

made from plastic tubes. The distance from the objective lens to the eyepiece is approximately the focal length of the former. But the main body of the telescope is a little shorter than this to allow for the tube for the eyepiece. Inside the scope-tube there are three light-stops made by cutting a circular hole in a piece of paper. The diameters of the holes are from the first stop $1\,3/8''$, $2''$and $2\,5/8''$respectively. The second stop is the main stop, and is placed in the middle of the telescope's tube. You can also put a convex lens between your objective and eyepiece. I try this in my second telescope, but I prefer my first one better. To do this, you place at the distance α before the focal point of the objective the concave lens of focal length f. The new point of focus of the combination will be β where $\beta > \alpha$. Depending on what one has to begin with, then, $\beta = (m-1)f = (f\alpha)/(f-\alpha) = m\alpha$, $\alpha = \beta/m = f - f/m = f\beta/(f+\beta)$, $m = \beta/\alpha = f/(f-\alpha) = (\beta+f)/f$ and $f = m\alpha/(m-1) = \beta/(m-1) = \alpha\beta/(\beta-\alpha)$.

There are several types of eyepiece. The simple and most popular home-made one is called the symmetrical type, Kellner type 3 or Plössl. It is made by placing two identical plano-convex lenses symmetrically beside each other, such that their convex part are closest to each other. Other types include both *ordinary* and corrected eyepieces, for example aspheric, Bertele, Erfle, Hastings, *Huygens*, Kellner, Mittenzwey-Abbe orthoscopic, orthoscope, Plössl, *Ramsden*, Steinheil and *Tolles*, some of which are divided into subtypes. Achromatic lenses can be used to correct the colours. In both the Huygens and the Ramsden there are two plano-convex lenses. The only difference is that in the former these two lenses face towards the same direction, whereas in the latter they face each other. The lens closest to the eye is called the eye lens while the other one the field lens. The Huygens eyepiece has good definition, especially at the centre, and is fully corrected for lateral colours. Apart from the lateral colour, the Ramsden eyepiece is better corrected than Huygens in all respect. Two of the variations in Huygens are the Huygens design, 4 – 3 – 2, and the Dolland, designated 3 – 2 – 1, the number showing the relative magnitude of respectively the field lens' focal length, the lens separation, and the eyes lens' focal length. The resulting focal length is then 8/3 and respectively 3/2.

The Stonehenge (Old English for *hanging stones*) is on the Salisbury Plain, 1.9 miles west of Amesbury in Wiltshire, England. It began as an earthwork circle and ditch around 3000 BC, and later developed into a complex stone structure around 2100 BC. Thirty upright sand stones with lintel stones on top formed a circle of approximately 100 feet in diameter. Within the sarsen peristyle were five more sarsen trilithons arranged in a horseshoe shape. A trilithon is two upright stones supporting a lintel stone on top. The sandstone used for making these sarsens is local. Other circles, all concentric to one another, are bluestone relocated from the previous outer circles and were transported from the

Prescelly Mountains, Pembrokeshire, Wales. Each of the uprights measures 18 by 7 feet and weigh some 26 tonnes. Both this horseshoe and the opening of the ditch circle which encompasses the outermost sarsen circle open towards the direction of the midsummer sunrise. Continue this line further in the opposite direction and you have the midwinter sunset.

Nowhere in the universe can a harmony be more beautifully visualised than in binary stars. In a binary systems two stars revolve around their mutual centre of gravity. The two stars and their CG form a straight line at all time, but the length of this line and the distance from each of the stars to the CG periodically change. Both stars reach their maximum separation when they exhaust their mutual momentum, approach each other until the minimum separation is reached where the orbital velocity of both is greatest and therefore the momentum, and then swing further apart like a coiled spring released until their momentum is exhausted again and so on. Because of their lateral velocity, the two stars run towards each other periodically but never collide.

It may be otherwise for men, but in science one simply value special cases less than one does general ones. A special case is only a curiosity while a general one can form a theory. From Einstein's Special Relativity and according to a stationary observer, the time increases exponentially with speed towards infinity, and so the mass. The length, however, decreases according to the Fitzgerald contraction until it becomes zero at the velocity $v = c$. This c is the speed of light and is never exceeded. Imagine two spaceships move away from the earth in the direction direction opposite to each other at 95 per cent the speed of light. The speed of each spaceship as appear to the other will be 99.9 per cent the light's speed.

All massive bodies deflect photons, but it only becomes obvious when their mass is great and concentrated. A black hole is by definition that body, or to be precise the collapsed body, which not only deflects but captures the photon. If we concentrated a mass in to a single point and imagine ourselves moving towards it, then at a point just inside the *photon sphere* all rays of light in the horizontal direction will go round and round the mass in circle, unable to escape. Between this photon sphere and the *event horizon* the light ray which goes directly away from the star and all the rays within the cone around it will escape while the rest is pulled towards the mass and thereby captured. This cone becomes more and more tapered until at the point just above the event horizon when it is reduced into a single line, when no light escapes unless it goes directly away from the mass. In stars these event horizon and photon sphere normally lie within the surface and therefore post no problems for an observer. At the extreme condition when they shrink under their own gravity until their radius lies within either one of these spheres, however, this will cease to be the case. This singularity, the event horizon and

the photon sphere make up what we call a Schwarzschild black hole. Karl Schwarzschild calculated in 1916 the critical radius of an object below which nothing, not even light, may escape. This Schwarzschild radius is $r_s = 2Gm/c^2$ and for someone who weighs 60 kg is a little less than 8.9×10^{-26} metre. It is known since 1795 when the French mathematician Pierre Simon Laplace (1749 – 1827) calculated that light will not be able to escape a mass which is massive enough or a collapsed body. Others say that it John Mitchell in 1783 said a similar thing before Laplace did. But it was only in 1960 that astronomers had their attention drawn to black holes. The photon sphere or photon circle is the trajectory where photons that enter the black hole at a certain angle remain and neither fall into the black hole nor escape. It is the trajectories of light in space the way the limit cycle the trajectory of states in the state space.

Physicists believed that light propagates through a medium, the ether, until the experiment made by Michelson and Morley in 1887. A light source is split by the beam splitter into two paths perpendicular to each other. These paths reflect at a mirror and come together again in a telescope where interference fringes are detected. The velocity of light travelling in the same direction as the ether should have changed and become prominent when the instrument is rotated by 90°. The same is always true with swimmers. The swimmer who swims across the current and come back always win the other one who swims the same distance along the current first and then come back against it. This is easily shown if we let the velocity of the current be v and the speed of the swimmer u. Here necessarily $u > v > 0$ for otherwise the swimmer shall never be able to swim against the current. Let the distance swum by both in each direction be x. Then the time taken by the first swimmer becomes $2x/u$ whereas that taken by the second $x/(u+v) + x/(u-v)$ which simplifies to $2ux/(u^2 - v^2)$. But $u - v^2/u$ is always less than u for $v > 0$, which means that the first swimmer wins provided that he is not normally slower than the second one by at least v^2/u where u is now the speed of the second swimmer. When their experiment showed no significant fringes shift the ether suddenly found no roles to play and was soon abandoned as being irrelevant before Einstein developed his special relativity theory in 1905. According to his theory, the speed of light is independent of the velocity of the source. In Electrodynamic, the local observer sees only the electric field produced by the electric charge while another observer who moves relative to him sees both the electric current and the magnetic field. Experiments to test his special relativity theory use instruments like the betatron, cyclotron, and synchrotron to mention but a few.

Imagine that you are in a very fast spaceship with windows on the front, side and rear. As the speed of your vehicle approaches 90 per cent the speed of light, the view through the front window appears like

what you see looking at the universe through a fish-eye lens. When you look through the back window, it seems like you are looking through a powerful telescope, not resolutionwise but that you see fewer stars. Through the side window look and 'Lo and behold!', what used to be the vertical line in the middle of the window is now a small circular arc attached to the side of the window towards the direction in which the spaceship is travelling, with half of the stars in it. If your spaceship moves away from the sun at the speed of light, you will even see the sun in your front window. These results were predictions based on the calculations by G D Scott and H J van Driel.

In the Doppler Effect the light from an approaching source is blue-shifted because the wavelength decreases, whereas the light from a receding source red-shifted because the wavelength increases. This effect was first discovered by Christian Doppler (1803–1853) for the sound waves. The cone of the blue-shift is 149°at the speed of 50 per cent of c. At 90 per cent c this cone becomes 102°and at 99½ per cent 50°.

To an observer on earth the outer planets sometimes appear to be moving backwards across the sky, retracing its steps for a while before resuming its journey. This is the retrograde movement, and occurs because both the observer and the observed planet moves. The observer is on the inner planet which moves faster, and therefore for the relative motion we can imagine the position of the outer planet to be fixed. Then the effect may be visualised by analogy with a piston assembly as an observer who is on the crank looking at the piston along the connecting rod as his line of sight. Here the sun is at the crankshaft.

The Newton's law of gravitation states that the force which acts between two bodies is Gm_1m_2/r^2 where m_1 and m_2 are the mass of the bodies, r the separation between them and G the gravitational constant. We can see that this is a nonlinear equation with regard to the force and the distance, that is to say, the force greatly increases with the decreasing distance. The weight of our body is not the mass but the force in the term of Newton's law. It therefore changes depending on how far away from the centre of the earth we are. If you weigh 60 kg, assuming that the radius of the earth is 4,000 miles, then at 4,000 miles above the surface of the earth you weigh only 15 kg. Two thousand miles below the earth's surface, however, you weigh less at 30 kg. This is because now only the mass of that part of the globe which lies below your feet interacts with your body. In other words, in a homogeneous body only that mass of the sphere which is centred around the centre of gravity of the body and has the radius equal to the separation between the two CG's, interacts with the CG of that other body. Were the earth shaped like a cube the length of the side of which is d, and if you stood in the middle of one of its face, then only the mass of volume $(3/4)\pi(d/2)^3$ would have acted on your body.

I go around using either the Vespa scooter or the sport bicycle. I

often come here to the library. The books on astronomy are on the top and third floor where there are very few people and the air-conditioning becomes rather cold late into the night. There are tables with partitions and a reading lamp. You need to turn on the lamp to be able to read, the library is too dimly lit. Often in some of these tables there are man and woman doing things only they would know. Today, apart from the table where I sit there are only two other tables with the light on. One of them faces the wall, leaving a gap behind where you can walk between the table and the shelves. The partition can only hide the occupants of the table from someone down the passage. But when you walks pass behind it everything comes into view. When I arrived here two hours earlier, I passed behind the table while looking for some nice corner to sit. The man's hand was in the girl's blouse, but she was passive and not protesting. I tried not to notice and passed them by as quietly and quickly as possible. Both of them are students. The other table where there is light is in the very far end of the floor. The corner is so far away and the floor so quiet that I would never dream of walking there at this hour, let alone to sit and read. Yes I am young, and when you are my age you fear ghosts. I never find out what they are up to there. Anyhow, my business is astronomy.

I never cease to wonder, whenever I look up at the stars in the sky, how vast the universe is and how tiny we all are. Just imagine that the light goes around the world seven and a half times in one second, and yet it takes more than 4.2 years for the light to go from here to the closest star to the sun, the Alpha Centauri. Among the billions of galaxies or twin spiral galaxy, the Andromeda which is in our Local Cluster, is 2.22 million light-years away. This galaxy is in the Pegasus constellation and is also known as M31 or NGC224. The first number is according to the catalogue compiled by Charles Messier (1730 – 1817) in 1784 which contains 103 galactic and extra-galactic nebulae. He also discovered 16 comets and observed 41. The Pegasus also contains M32 and M33.

In 1781 William Herschel (1738 – 1822) discovered Uranus. By 1840 astronomers have found that the orbit of the planet does not agree with the calculated path.

Do I need to tell you never to believe anyone including myself? As everything else a person may change, his idea, his believe and all. This is important since we are not a robot. Buddha is the first instance in history of the enlightenment. His teaching is timeless, though you may find it only in the canon which is not written by himself but somebody else, and which includes all the other worldly parts and cares. At the core of his teaching is that recorded as the Kaḷamāsuṭr, which is in the Dutiyāpaṇṇāska within the Tikaniḅat of the Anggutārānikāy.. It tells you never to believe something because lf the following ten reasons. These are namely *mā anussaven*, that is to say, never believe only because it is well-accepted; *mā paramprāya*, nor because it follows as a consequence of

something; *mā itikirāya*, neither if it is according to what I have heard; *mā piṭakasampadānen*, nor because it is written in a bible or canon; *mā nayahētu*, never for it stands up to methodologies; *mā takkahetu*, nor because it stands up to reasons; *mā ākāraparivitakken*, neither because you have reflected and pondered; *mā diṭṭhinijjhānakkhantiyā*, nor since it follows from, is against, or because of the opinion to which you adhere; *mā bhabbarūpatāya*, never for it is becoming or attractive; and lastly *mā samaṇō nō garu*, because of neither priests nor gurus.

I am learning Thai weapons at the Śrị Ảyudhảyạ sword school. My teacher is Pīak who also teaches Chemistry. First there is the *khùen grụ* (student-accepting). For this we need a candle, flowers, incense and the smallest amount of money, which in this case is the 25 sàtạng coin. We sit on the floor while the teacher on a chair. One by one he tells us never to use what we are about to learn here to do wrongs to others. By this I guess that he means those things that are morally wrong, which our conscience alone can tell us.

First we learn how to stand with our legs wide apart and the thighs parallel to the ground. Then we walk with long strides each of which makes 45 degrees to the direction we face, always remember to keep our low position. We learn how to hold the two swords, one in each hand, such that to make the shape of an upright regular triangle that guards our body when looking from the front. Our whole body itself, from the feet up, resembles another upright equilateral triangle. Then we learn the *mậe māi* (base formula) which comprises *gạu* (necks), *khạ* (legs), *ẹw* (waists), *họa* (heads) and *dạeng* (pierces). Complementary to these are the moves to receive these where invariably the right hand receives the blow made by a right hand, and so on. This is called *raḅ naị* in general. Then there is the *māi sạm* (third formula) where there are necks, head, (dodge, change) *gạu gù* (double-neck's or d-neck's), *họa gù* (double-head or d-head) and *ngad́ gù* (double-surge or d-surge), where *change* (plĭan) means changing from hitting to barring and vice versa. There is no *māi hà* (fifth formula) as such, but a hypothetical one may contain necks, legs (both received with the same hand), waist (out-bar), (change) gạu, (dodge, change) d-neck's, d-head and d-surge. Here *out-bar* is receiving the hit by a right hand with your left hand and vice versa, that is *raḅ nauk*, the opposite to *raḅ naị* already mentioned. Dodging (saud́) moves your body out of the line and direction of attack, ideally such that you find yourself behind the coming weapon and its wielder. Next is the *māi ced́* (seventh formula) with its necks, legs, waists, head, (change) d-neck's, d-head and d-surge. *Māi kào* (ninth formula) is probably the easiest to do but the most wild. It starts with a neck, then four cascade-neck's (gạu tạmkan), (dodge, change) d-neck's, d-head and d-surge.

We learn *goang blaung* (pole spinning), where the pole is a little longer than our height. The moves are namely *khb̆eng sạeng sụrỳa* (sun-racing),

biruṇ rāunghài (crying rain), *Ṇaṛaẏṇa sị̆ kaur* (four-handed Narayana), *phlạeng śaur khậm khao* (shooting an arrow over the mountain), *hak ngoang aiẏaṛạ* (cutting elephant's trunk, half-head), *tem họa* (full-head), *thẹr kvạd́ lạn* (old man sweeping the floor), and *ban ẹw* (waist-wrap).

The most important thing in traditional Thai weaponry is the *dậ raṃ* (dancing style). It is what sets us apart from other kinds of martial art. It also represents what our school means to us in terms of *grụ* (teacher) and *śiṣẏa* (student). Teachers are like parents. The *kaṃlang bhạynaị* (hidden force) that I used to read are riddled with Chinese proverbs. Many of these are good, for example there is a popular one that says, 'Being a teacher for one day is like being the father for the rest of your life'. Not all teachers are selfless, however, even in the area of sword fighting.

Grauḅ means becoming accepted as a teacher. For this we have to be tested. We do not have this test every year, only about once in five years in general. Depending on who became a teacher before whom, we have *bị̀* (elder member) and *nậung* (younger member). These are prefixes which have become our second nature, while *vhài* is how you put the palm of your hands together and position it in such away that your index fingers are between you brows, no thumbs stick out, and your upper arms are braced close to your body. Those who are together with me are namely Ậem, Art, Bẹ̄, Cŭn, Ḍạeng, Dẹ̄ng, Jayvaḍhṅa, Kùng, Lhim, Mị̀, Mụ, San, Siddhi, Tậum and Tọ. Before us are Am (Ạem), Gīang, Lẹ̀ha ('Ley, *i.e.* Byeley, I think), Nạng, Nok, Pop (Pāuḅ), Vậe, and Yuddh. Before these are our teacher Pīak and together with him Ḍạeng, Mânas and Páung who is in Laṃbụn. There was also Lauy whom I have never met, for he had already died. Before these is Ạriẏa who founded the *saṃnak ḍ́aḅ* (sword school) Śrị Ȧyudhảyạ, and before him Lạ and Lị. And here the trail ends, for we keep no records. Ạriẏa died in Lī when he was 51. Before Śrị Ȧyudhảyạ there was the Buddhaiysảvarrġa which he had founded together with Sảmay. They went their separate ways because Sảmay would turn the teaching of this into a business whereas Ạriẏa would have none of it.

There are two rooms which belong to the club. One serves as the main office, armoury as well as a conference room, the other a room for practising. Each room was once an old class-room and has a large black-board, two doors on one side and a row of windows on the other. The wooden bar on top of the door frame of the rear door of the first room has a metal loop where you can hang a punch bag filled with saw-dust with an aid of a hook. The windows opened on to the roof of the bicycle garage. One can easily climb over the sills of windows on to the roof. The roof slightly slopes outward and runs the whole length of the building which must be no less than fifty metres in total. It seems to beckon at you, inviting you to climb out to walk on it. But the tiles

were thin and not holding, you must always keep to the places where it rested on a beam if you walked on it. Today I had been out there with some friends of mine scaling the roof I misplaced my foot and the tiles beneath suddenly gave way. I could still remember the feeling when I fell down through the hole caused by my own weight. Fortunately both my arms caught hold of the tiles on either sides of my body and those ones did not give way so I was hanging at breast-level with my bust above the roof and the rest of my body dangling in the air down from the ceiling of the bicycle room. It was after five o'clock in the evening and many students were in there. Looking down I could see their faces as they looked up to what happening above their heads. It must have been a sight to see for all I know. I got bruises and cuts but amazingly these do not hurt me at all. It must have been the shock of my first experience of falling through a roof that kept all the pains away.

I feel rather shaken-up now as I think back to what happened and realise that I could easily have broken my legs, or for that matter my neck. As I laugh away with my friends I feel grateful that I had escaped intact, and secretly promise myself that never again will walk on that roof.

The roof is never my favourite spot anyway. I prefer spending my time on the corridor in front of the room with a pair of rattan sticks, each one of which is about one metre long, in my hands practising. We practise in pairs which alternated between attacking and defending. We normally practise formulas, that is set sets of attacks and defences done by two back and forth and back again, and so on, for as long as one like. These are very useful. They give us the precision and timing necessary in performances which are the main activity of our club. One example of such formulas is the one I have already mentioned above, which goes neck-neck-leg-leg-waist-waist-head-head-stab-stab by one party and then return with exactly the same sequence of attacks made by the other party. Another one begins with neck-neck-head, then the other party dodges the head and returns with doubleneck-doubleneck-doublehead-doublesurge, and then he may begin again right from the beginning of the formula and thus carrying on the sequences as before but with opposite roles for each party. These sequences almost always alternate between left and right, and thus this is left unsaid. Therefore the neck-neck means an attack to the neck position on the left-hand side of the attacker followed by one to that on the right-hand side, and so forth. The prefix *double-* means essentially that both swords to attack together on the same position of the same side. The blow thus made is that where both swords strike together in parallel. A surge was my own word coined up to represent a *ngad́* in Thai. It is done by a prompt outward circular movement of the swords in both hands in such a way that the blades are brought up in a curve towards the opposite party from below. Other schools may have the another thing that looks similar to a surge as well

as a leg. It is done by a circular movement of only one sword which in the beginning looks as though it aimed at the leg, but then curves up towards the rib. This is called a *yāun kleď* and I will call it here as a *rip*. Such a blow is very difficult to ward off since it is not direct. I consider it a dangerous thing to do, especially when you mock-fight with your friend for a performance. So we use nothing like it at our school. Páung's school in Laṃbụn, however, is expert in this. And they also fly in circular motion like a disc spinning horizontally, with their body parallel to the ground, to escape from blows in the legs. Taiwanese films always do the same thing, and these may come from them. However, neither does this become us. So we never try it. What I believed was that the reason why my school did not use such blow as a I doubt that the rip-blow is old. It looks different, not as straightforward as all those that we do.

All the blows made in the line of fighting of the *saṃnakḍạḥ* Sri Ayudhya of *gruṵ* (guru) Ạriṵya, even though they always comes from a circular movement to gather the momentum, always land with the blade straight on to the target. Every cut thus made resembles a straight cut, contrasted with the sliced cut as carved up by a rip.

There are two ways to perform or practice with your friend safely using the real swords. One is to stop the blades just short of the other, that is in this case the momentum is stopped. The other is to keep the momentum going in a circular motion, thus the blades only raked past each other causing ample sparks flying as they pass and touch each other in full speed. I always use both of these methods in combination. By keeping most of the momentum in a circle you often get plenty of sparks which are caused by the two jagged blades that glide past each other at high speed.

Sometimes you let the swords stray from their circles, and thereby produce a realistic scene. Only you had to be double-careful to make sure that you can stop the sword at any time you want, so that no accidents result. But accidents do happen, at least to me they do all the time. I am perhaps the only one among us who seems to get a new wound or two from every performance.

As for the doubled attacks, one can either dodge such blows, ward them off by leading them to other directions or double-fend oneself, which means to fend oneself with the two swords in parallel thus receiving a blow made by two swords with two swords. Yet another one of such formulas is that which goes neck-leg-waist-neck-leg-waist-head-stab-stab-head, here the first right to the neck is followed by the first left leg.

The triangular stepping is to be practised for at least a month before everything else starts. Your subconscious mind never forgets it after that. It is at the very foundation of all the Thai martial arts, includ-

ing Moay Daiy, and is known as the *yàng sạm khum.* Essentially it means keeping guard when you walk about while fighting, always keeping your feet aligned in a line approximately 45 degree to the imaginary line connecting your opponent and yourself. The foot-work is the most important thing in all sword fights. A strong foot-work results from keeping your feet wide apart and your body low. Your two feet should form with your head a firm, equilateral triangle. You can even draw lines connecting them together as the vertices of it. And you must keep your body in the upright position. Then imagine your legs as the arms of a compass in geometry and draw a circular arc first using your left- and then another one using your right leg. You have, then, two points on the ground where these two arcs intersect each other. These become the only two places possible for your next footing. Your fighting becomes nothing but the flowing series of footings which has become naught but for the sequence of these points on the ground.

Both feet are kept at about one metre distance from each other. The practice is at first done without the rattan sticks, and later with two of these one in each hand. The sticks are straight, one inch and a quarter in diameter, and one metre long. The on-guard position means keeping the sticks, which were called rattan swords or *d́ạḅ vhạy* in Thai, in an upright triangular position in front of you. Your upper arms are kept reasonably close to your body while the lower arms extend comfortably outwards in front of you. The first month is spent walking without the two rattan sticks, the second with them kept at all times in the guarding position, and the third while practising the attacks to the neck when advancing, and when retreating the receiving blows to the necks as such. Three or four of us stand in a row running the width of the practice-room, go together forwards and then backwards, always in long steps. We practise everyday, with no exceptions even for Saturdays and Sundays. Thai swords become a part of our lives.

The planks that make up the floor are splintered in places. Sometimes the small pieces of wood broken off them, or the protruding nails, would catch our feet while we are practising. The only way such wounds are dressed is with the dark, rust-red tincture-iodine solution. The wounds caused by splintered wood are somewhat harder to treat than those caused by nails as there always are small pieces of wood stuck under the skin that have to be taken care of first.

More often than not, in our taking away the splintered wood the wound would widen up sufficiently to make it easier for the strong tincture-iodine solution to react with it. Some believe that the solution was not the best way of treating a fresh wound because it kills tissues.

But for us it reduces the chance of getting the pus as well as prevents an infection. I remember when I was younger, during my first or second year in the junior high-school, I once had a small opening in the skin of the lower part of my left leg which developed into a large wound

filled with pus. After a while it began to stink and worsen all the while disregarding what I do with it. I was so afraid for fear that my leg would have to be cut off. For months the ordeal went on. As the last resort I think that I took some antibiotics and afterwards the pus started to go away. I remembered vaguely that I used to scrape the wound clean of pus by myself, and then applied some tincture-iodine solution on it. But I can not remember whether that made it better or worse.

In the performances I wield not two swords but a sword and a *ḱàng*, which is a shield with a rectangular shape, made of thick dried leather and held in the left hand. Its use in combination with the *ḱạḥ* (sword) is simply called the *ḱạḥ ḱàng*. Before each fight there is always the ritualistic, slow movements with the weapon that are made solemnly in the presence of the other combatant. These dances always start from a *bromh sị̌ nhà* (four-faced Brahmā) which goes in four directions at right angle to each other. The purpose of doing it was to pay a homage to that Hindu god and the creator of all things, which has in the human form four hands and four faces. With the strong influence of Hinduism, and with it the Sanskrit language, Ayudhàyạ became a powerful empire. The Lanna empire in the north, on the other hand, was more influenced by the Buddhism from Śrị Langkạ, which is reflected in the influence of the pali language. Hinduism has three major divinities, and Brahmā is one of them. Then there is *viṣàṇu* (Viṣnu) who is the protector and maintainer of the world. For all the engineers in Thailand he is the god to be respected in their profession. Then the last one to be mentioned is the Śiva who is the god of destruction. It is interesting to note how it is Viṣṇu not Brahmā who is considered by Thais as the god of Engineerings. In the light of this, Brahmā creates all things while engineers merely maintain them.

There were two kinds of the Bromh Sị̌ Nhà, one of which is done in the standing postures while the other in the sitting ones. They are respectively called *bromh yụen* and *bromh nàng*. In both of these, one steps as though one is following the four sides of an invisible square on the ground, that is to say, forwards and then three times consecutively rightwards. In the end you come back to the position from where you started. One goes on one's feet in the Bromh Yụen and on both knees and feet in the Bromh Nàng.

After the BSN comes a series of slow dances or ram which are essentially slow movements abstracted from or summarising the actual movements done in the fighting. The spiritual purpose of this is to pay homage to one's line of teachers while the practical purpose is to warm up and prepare oneself for the fight, as well as to allow the combatants the inspection of the ground which is important in planning the way they fight. It also lets one know whether there are any pitfalls in the ground so that he may avoid them during the combat or performance.

The Raṃs vary from weapon to weapon. For instance, those of the two-handed swords differ from those of the Thai sabre or krabḭ̆, a slender sabre that is held in one hand. Together with the Ngậw it is held with the highest regard among all the other kinds of the Thai weapons. A ngao is a sword attached to a very long handle used by kings when they fight with each other sitting on top of their elephants.

Thus in practice they all have a hook just below the blade for turning the living vehicle. With its long wooden handle it looked more like a harpoon than a sword. Both the krabḭ̆ and the ngậw are considered to be the weapon of the king. Therefore they command the ruling position above all the rest. In my ḍ́ạḅ ḍ́àng practice I use the slow dances of the krabḭ̆. Among the various combinations performed using the Thai weapons neither a real krabḭ̆ nor a real ngậw is ever used. They are seldom performed as a fight even with the rattan canes in place of a real blades. Essentially they are only performed as parts of the ritualistic dances before all the performances. From its nature, the ngậw is a particularly difficult weapon to yield on the ground. I conjecture that a king almost never was on the ground in wars. And even if he did, I think he would have chosen to wield the ḍ́ạḅs instead of a krabḭ̆. Neither was he likely to have such great needs for the ngậw either while sitting on his elephant, because each foot of the marsupial is guarded at all times by a foot-soldier who would have to die before anybody could get to firstly the elephant and then the rex. Even if he did die, another would resume his post in no times. The single-handed sword is used more like a krabḭ̆ than a sword. We never have elephants at our saṃnak (school), so I have seldom seen a ngậw bout performed. But perhaps Ậem and Mị̀ do it together sometimes with the rattan weapons.

I go together during one winter to perform at the *ngạn ṛuéd̒ụnhạw* (winter festival) in Jiangmhăi̯. This town sits in the northern part of Thailand where it is mountainous, so the weather here is cooler than in most other parts of the country. Winters here used to be much colder in the past, when there were still plenty of forests that is. I can remember a day when I was a small child sitting in a saloon-car while my father drove the Hillman to send us to our school. As we passed our shop near the market downtown to drop off my mother and the two servants, we saw a long line of people in front of our shop waiting to buy things. My father had then a business selling wool and winter clothes made from woolen products. Normally my mother would open the shop with the servants while father send us to school. He would be back to the shop fifteen minutes later. That morning, however, he decided that there were too many prospective customers waiting there than the three of them to handle, so we drove past in front our own shop to the schools first as if we were no there. The fog on the streets was very thick that morning.

The Winter Festival is held each year at a sport ground which had

been built to accommodate an Asian Games in the past. Apart from the performance here, we also perform at the Channel 9 in Lampạng, the Cạmàdẹvị's Festival in Lạmbụn where we stay overnight at Pậung's place, at the restaurant in a garden by the Ping River, and at the Golden Jubilee of the Monfort College and Bicentennial Ceremony of *ratànàkọsindṙa* (Bangkok's era), when we build a tower that is used during the day as a short cut to climb up to the first floor, and at night as a platform for Gīang to do the solo torch-blaungs while below, on the football ground, fifty students do the torch-blaung. The royal barge Suvarrṇàhongṡa traverses the whole length of the football field during the day. Inside it squat the students cramped, among whom I am one, while the rowers do their job to the recitation on the loud-speaker of the verses to the occasion as it is done with the real barges on the Cào Brayạ River. Following the boat, perform as usual before the audience and then there follows a competition of the two-handed swords where cushioned rattan-swords are used.

At night we sleep together in the practice room and I wake up to the sound of fighting between Yuddh and Vậe who are both my seniors. The latter is a disciplinary officer in the army, and he has the right to carry a gun around. He had drunk and exchanged harsh words with some of those young people who came to the Festival, when brandishing his gun he told them to be gone. Yuddh must have coaxed to get the gun from him, for which he became infuriated afterwards. They fought a real fight, and waking up I see Vậe beside himself with rage and lets fly the huge staff dangerously around while Yuddh marvellously dodges and from behind holds fast to his dear friend. Before this happens, however, he side-steps and dodges, always trying to get at all times the more closer instead of going way, for he must knows how deadly a blow from such a pole can mean. I am also aghast, for I know how heavy that staff is. It is made from a piece of solid hard-wood, so big that the tips of my thumb and middle finger do not touch when I hold it in my hands, and standing on one end taller than me. They are both specialised in the thing, and there is a pair of the staffs but I do not know where the other one has gone to. In this manner each of the blows misses him by a hair's breadth.

Bẹ̄ has to undergo an operation on his spine which hurts. But it gets worse and he has to have more operations one after another, getting from bad to worse every time. I can not understand what happened, for he seemed to me to be initially fine before he visited the doctor. It is terrible to see someone wasted away this way.

Tàum is a rather meek and polite boy, the dear one to us all. He is also perhaps the youngest. He used to be very tiny seemingly an easy target enough for bullies. But he seems to have grown so quick overnight that one day I find that he is taller than me and most of us, except Jayvaḍhṅa and Gomsan. But the pleasant smile is still there when he is harassed

by the hoodlum who lived in front of the school who is taller and heavier than him. One day the boy comes to our very door-step and demands a fight with him. He is here with is all his friends. Tàum wants to use the practice room, so we lend it him and close the door behind the giant and him as they enter, with neither the windows opened nor the lights on, the darkness of the room. Inside it must have been like the interior of a black box. Everyone is worried for him. No longer than ten seconds after we closed the door there is a yell, 'That's enough! I've had enough!,' as though somebody was in great panic in the face of death, and then there are knocks on the door coming from inside the room.

We opened the door to let them out and there the giant stands, full with sweat, his shirt all rumpled up while Tàum looks as though nothing had happened and he just came back from a walk. 'We are leaving now', the giant says authoritatively to his people. Nobody apart from the two know what had happened during the ten seconds in that dark and hot room. None of us aske Tàum later what he had done to that fellow who had been so proud until that day. But I soon notice the disappearance of of the giant who, as a bane of the civilisation, had bullied young students around this area. I can not help but feel a chill down my spine every time I think about this. Here is a fighter enough who neither boasts nor quarrels, always strong but never aggressive, polite but never weak. Never wanting to fight, he gives it no second thought when the time comes, and when it is finished thinks about it no more. Happy to say, I feel myself inferior by comparison, even though he is one of the juniors in our saṃnak.

Lhim is unfortunate enough to get a wound in his eyeball caused by a spark which flew from the swords when they struck against each other. After Siḍḍha h has gone to the vocational school to do his agricultural studies, I perform with my new partner Cŭn. Once I also perform the staff fighting with San.

There is an old poem that our teacher always sings. We never dare ask him to repeat it for us in full, so we try to gather it from bits and pieces. Bẹ̣ is particularly good at this. He has a good memory and always remember twice as much as we do.

> Noḅ ọey, noḅ kẹ́ś
> vhài dai dẹvẹ́ś duk diśạ,
> Ịk brabuddh bradharrm lāṃ lọkạ,
> dāng ḅiḍaur, mạrḍạ, grụ, ạcạrẏa.
>
> Ca rạ̀yraṃ ạvudh yuddhàjay
> hàị prạkoṭ kroek krai phặe baiśạl.
> Kiarti pravati fhạk vāi naị taṃnạn
> hàị lụklhạn raṃluek nuek braguṇ.
>
> Ḅarrbàjon khaung rao tặe kăo kăun
> goey rạn raun sù tạy mạ lhạy rùn.

Vijạkạr d́ạḅdaiy d̀ài cụacun,
jòay kùanhun Daiy gong d́aṃrong Daiy.

Kaur pranom, kòm klào, nậw d́oangcit.
Nāum udiś fhạk kạy thảvạy śiar.
Raṃluek guṇ ḅarrbả Daiy d̀ài bạkbiar
ràṃrian roḅ sù kù jạti Dâi.

Tặe ḅọrạṇ nạn mạ Daiy klàkrặeng
khankhaeng blẹng ạvudh sud́priaḅ d̀ài.
Ảyudhảyạ tok aḅ yaḅyàuy pai
hẹtu mi jài gon daiy rāi fhịmụe.

Brau tạek gvạm sạmaggị dhạnị lòm,
pradẹś com, tặe Daiy mài rāi jù̀e.
Vijạkạr d́ạḅ daiy Daiy fhuekprụe.
Rao yued́ thụe kauḅkặu tặukan mạ.

Nảgaur Śrị Ảyudhảyạ dhạnị
cueng mài sìn gond́ị d̀ang dị vạ̀.
Ẹkảraj jạti Daiy d̀ài gụen mạ
brau vijạ d́ạḅ daiy d̀ài cụacun.

Ḅaṃḅoang ḅụjit ayjulị
ḅarrbảjon dàn dị goey kùanhun
cong sảthit ywй̆ d̀òay jòay ao ḅuy
kạruṇ lụk daiy naị paccuḅan

d́aṃrong màn cit zù̀e thụe sacca,
mị bảla roeng rạeng khaengkhan.
Hàị d́ạḅ daiy gù Daiy pai nirand́r,
d́aṃrong màn gù fậ dhạnị ọey.

We could perhaps translate this into English as the following.

O, I bow
to the gods in all directions,
to the Buddha and Dharma,
father, mother and teachers.

This weapon I shall wield
to make it known to all the world
and leave such legend as that which
our children shall thank.

Our forefather in the past
had fought and sacrificed for generations.
The Sword Art had supported and
helped Thai to remain Thai.

With hands together and head bowed, my mind is

bent upon sacrificing and forfeiting my life.
I thank our ancestors who with determination
had learnt this then fought and salvaged the country.

From time immemorial Thais are strong and brave.
The wielding of the weapons is second to none.
Ȧyudhȧyạ perished
not because Thais were not able.

For disunity the city fell,
the country sank, but the culture remained.
And with it Thai Sword is practised
which we hold fast and pass down through generations.

The good city Ȧyudhȧyạ
thus lacks no good men, as we say.
We regained independence
with the help of the Thai Swords.

I pray to the gods,
our progenitors who had helped.
Pray they are here in us to sympathise and
help the present generation

be faithful, honest, truthful,
strong and untiring.
Let the Swords be forever with the Thais
and remain as long as does the sky.

The worst offence that we do to our friends at the school is to call them by their father's name. It seems like the names of our parents are sacred and it is a profanity, bordering on sacrilege, to call a person by the name of his father or mother. It is almost like calling by the name *Allah* the followers of Muhammad, *Jehovah* those of Jesus Christ, or *Yahweh* the god-fearing Jews. This goes to show that people need a god. In Asia where the main philosophy believed is Buddhism, no gods may exist in theory. But the father and the mother then become the gods to their children. To a certain degree this is true because they help each other to create the child. This is philosophically deduced not even from our own experience but from the observation of what happen around us. But religions argue that there must be the Origin of all origins, therefore both our ancestors, offsprings and us have a common Father and nobody is anyone's god. This Common Origin of us is unique in that it is the subset of our understanding of the Singularity but this is a subset that encompasses the superset, which is the whole universe itself. Suppose that we take, for instance, the Big Bang as the origin. Then the Big Bang itself is no god, but its predecessor is which is beyond our understandings and physics. At the present moment we may say that this is some time before the Planck's Time. So somewhere

beyond that, we may say, sits God. I conjecture that we shall never understand God, or rather how His Creation works. No matter how far we push at the limits of our understanding regarding the common question of the Origin, we can only arrive at some fenced-in area that we can not trespass within the boundary of which lies the key unknown that is God. Empiricism says that all our theories, being based on assumptions, are themselves assumption. Because of these fundamental assumptions involved, for example those in the Euclidean Geometry, we can not claim that we understand anything until we can create it. This makes the Origin impossible to understand, since by definition we would need the whole universe to recreate it. Our imagination is far more friendly and useful to us, for only then can we, who are most insignificant in the relative size, claim to understand what happens inside, for instance, a star. The physicals are based on practice. Beyond them is the imagination, which is based on experience, and beyond this the faith which only exist because we are a part of the God. The physical is the subset of the imagination, which in turn is the subset of the spiritual. One could even say that the existence of faith already implies the existence of God. But the negation of this is not true, that is to say, the fact that you may have no faiths, which seems impossible, does not imply that God may not exist. You should believe neither in my ideas nor in anybody's. But think about what I have said and in the end believe in your own ideas. All is equally well, even, whether our ideas agree with each other.

So in this realm of boxing you guard the names of your progenitors as dearly as your life You never call Bē, 'Jayyuddh'. Neither do you ever call Kȧṣembocṅa, 'Lob'. Nobody ever calls me 'Nivati', and I think the reason is that I am always solemn and therefore seem to be more mature than my age, so they are more considerate towards me. I never do this to anyone, for I know it is considered impolite.

All the swords' raṃs of the Śrị Ȧyudhȧyạ school are namely *nōm gạu Sịd́ạ*, *Maiyȧrạb sȧkod́ dab*, *khȧnạn sạud́srȧuy*, *jāng prasạn ngạ*, *hongṡa pịk hak*, *tad́ joeng dian*, *khȧnạn khạ*, *kŏng dhȧnụ*, *bạd́ khā̆ bạngsụrỳa*, *joeydian*, *d́ạb hau*, *raṃ lạu*, and *d́oen plạeng*. Those for the krabĭ of Śrị Ȧyudhȧyạ are namely *choed́chạy*, *prok nhà prok lhang*, *choed́chạy krạy prok*, *nạng krạy*, *saud́ phak*, *thȧvạy dian*, *joed́ làu*, *troac bol*, *d́oen dạeng tȧlaud́*, *Macchạnu fhào d́ặn*, *Hȧnumạn vhạek faungnāṃ*, and *raṃ làu*. For the Śrị Ȧyudhȧyạ blaung are namely *bạek dàen*, *sụa lạk hạng*, *yọn blaung*, *troac bol*, *bọk dhong*, *bạy rụa*, *dạeng sụa*, and *hạb nūa*. And for the Śrị Ȧyudhȧyạ ngāw are namely *d́oen bromh*, *Cọchọ lụb nhoad́*, *Kratòa dạeng sụa*, *Kumbhȧkaṇda laḅ hauk* (troac bol), *bạek sụa*, *bọk dhong*, *troac bol*, *nạng lauy*, *choed́ chạy*, *thẹr kvạd́ vad́*, *ngāw krạy*, and *dạeng sụa*. For this lore I thank Dhaỵỵa Triṇumitr whom I call Bĭ D́ạeng.

For the new style presently taught in schools, the raṃs for the krbĭ

are namely *lauyjạy*, *goang daḍ hụ*, *nheḅ khàng*, *tàng śauk*, *còang nhà còang lhang*, *goang pàung nhà*, *dà yakṣa*, *sauy ḍạw*, *goang tae*, *Hānumạn vhạek faungnāṃ* (*vhạek màn*), *loḍ làu*, and *joeỵ dian*. For the swords these are *tặu ḍàm*, *bạek*, *dadḥụ*, *riang mhaun*, *taḍ họa dian*, *dà yakṣa*, *săung klàung*, *kạkàbạd*, *bạek càung*, *fan Sịḍạ*, *saudsràuy*, *loḍ làu*, and *dẹb raṃbueng*. For the ngāw there are *doan nhà*, *baḅ śauk*, *bạy rụa*, *tặu khàu*, *săung klàung*, *pok nhà pok lhang*, *sụa lạk hạng*, *tăi rạw bọn*, *tăi rạw làng*, *lodḷàu*, and possibly two others. For the blaung there are *dīng lhang vạḍ nhà*, *bak śauk*, *nạeḅ kạy*, *tặu khàu*, *sặung klàung*, *pok nhà pok lhang*, *sụa lạk hạng*, *tăi rạw bọn*, *khaḍ lhang*, *tăi rạw làng*, *loḍ làu*, and one other.

The guarding position of *moay daiy* (Thai boxing) is in general higher than that of the swords. In *moay gạḍ juak* the hands are wound with rope to support their bones. Starting from the wrist the rope covers the back and the palm of the hand until it covers the whole hand up to the tip of the fingers. Then returning to the wrist the rope goes to the tips of the fingers to gather and pull the ropes there back towards the knuckles. The rope is then twisted until it becomes tight and hard, and then a thin rope the size of the match-stick is threaded through the stubble to fix and align them. This rope-wound boxing varies in style from one place to another, for example Gọrạj, Jaiyạ and Lobḅurị. The rope covers up to the wrist in the case of Moay Jaiyạ. For Lobḅurị it covers half way up the lower arm and for Gọrạj all the way to the elbow. At the Lhakmuang Ring a boxer from Khmer died in his bout with the rope-boxer from Utàràdittha, Bạe Līangprasroeṭh, and the rope-wound boxing bouts were abandoned.

The *moay* Jaiyạ uses the elbow, fist, knee and leg. There are nine types of elbow. These comprises the six forward *śauk* (elbows), namely *baḅ* (fold), *chiang* (diagonal), *dạeng* (stab), *kradūng* (pound), *soey* (upshove), *tàng* (stand), and the three *śauk klaḅ* (reverse elbows), namely *chiang khùen* (diagonally upward), *chiang long* (diagonally downward), and *lộn* (bald). There are four types of *mhaḍ* (fists), namely *kradūng* (pound), *soey* (shove up), *trong* (straight), and *vhĭang* (cast). There are six *khăo* (knees), that is *ḍọḍ* (jump), *dọn*, (single), *kratặy* (rabbit), *lạ* (leave), *lauy* (flying), and *nāuy* (little). There are ten *dāo* (feet), that is *chaḍ*, *faḍ* (hit), *klạng* (middle), *nheḅ* (attach), *sụng* (high), *taḍ* (cut), *tăṃ* (low), *thịḅ* (shove), *toḅ* (slab), and *trong* (straight). Traditionally, one could carry with him, with the believe that they will bring him victory and safety, a host of items, for example *birauḍ*, *bisàmaur*, t*monggol*, *praciaḍ*, and *trakruḍ*. The *birauḍ* is made of paper, *bisàmaur* a thin metallic sheet, *monggol* a cloth ring with a tail worn around the temples of the head, *praciaḍ* a cloth ring or jacket, and *trakruḍ* a wound metallic sheet.

In practice there are several ways to use the fist, for example *aḍ*,

upper-cut, the force of which comes from you body through the upper arm; *bùng tọa jok*, lurching punch, where you jump with the momentum of your whole body; *jòang sàn*, hook; *trong lōm tọa*, straight with the body falling after it; *trong vhĭang lhăi*, straight with throwing from the shoulder; and *vhĭang*, cast. The elbow has the *kradạek khậng nhậ*, forward impact; *klaḅ lhang*, reverse; *soey khùen*, shove upwards; *tịlong*, hit downwards; and *vhĭang lhăi*, cast from the shoulder. There are more to the feet than the others. This is one of the reasons that Moay Daiy (Muay Thai) is sometimes dubbed the *kick-boxing*. The feet can be divided into *fạd́* (hit), *te* (kick) and *thịḅ* (shove). For the kick there are *fạd́*, hitting, where the momentum curves up and down exploiting the earth's gravity; *kraḍọd́ te*, jump kick; *lhang dāo*, back part of the foot; *sòn dāo*, heel; *trong*, straight; and *vhĭang*, casting, the momentum goes parallel to the ground. For the shove there are *cik khâyùm nīw*, dig and grasp with the toes; *cik plạy nīw*, dig with the toes' tip; *khậng*, side; *lhang*, back; *sòn*, heel; and *trong*, straight. And the heel may be used for the hitting. For the knee there are *fạd́* where the head bows low, the knee rises and comes down against the face; *gộng*, curve, side and parallel to the ground; *kradạek*, impact; *lauy*, flying; *te*, kick, side at 45° upwards; and *trong*, straight. These are the *mậe māi* (basic formulas). Next are the *lụk māi* (variations).

Never carelessly practice the following with your friends. *Ḅạdạ lụḅ baktŕa*, a foot on the face: the right hand wards off an attack made by a right hand, and the right goes straight up to the chin, and if this misses it comes down and forwards to the face. *Ḅarrbot thảlŏm*, avalanche: guard the left arm against the attacking right leg, then fall on the thigh with the elbow of that arm. *Ḅẹn sumẹ̄ru*, deflecting the mountain: here the right arm wards off a left knee, then the left foot steps in and the left elbow goes to the face. *Blik phặend́in*, overturning the ground: a left step in for a left knee, then the right arm goes under the leg hinge and lifts up. *Bra Rạm caung thảnon*, Rama barring the whole road: take a left step outside of the attacking right hand, counter the attack simultaneously by the right hand to the face while the left shin to the ribs. *Bra Rạm d́oen d́ong*, the rambling Rama: the left foot receives the momentum from the thigh of an attacking right leg, then with this rises the body and together with it the right knee to the chest or chin. *Bra Rạm fạd́ śaur*, Rama hits the arrow: a right step in for a right elbow; edge of the hand attacks the arm hinge. *Bra Rạm hak śaur*, Rama breaks an arrow: step right in when attacked by a right elbow, then with the right hand grasps at the wrist and with the left the elbow and pushes it up. *Bra Rạm nậw śaur*, Rama draws the bow-string: with one arm guard the coming double elbows from above, knee bent and chin to chest, then return with the hand of the other arm. *Bra Rạm yan śaur*, Rama pushes the arrow: a right step in with the right

hand to the right shoulder to stop the attacking right elbow; the right or alternatively left elbow to the face, or the right knee to the rib. *Bra Ṛạm yhiaḅ Longkạ*, Rama comes to Longkạ: the right foot steps on the thigh of the attacking left leg and rise with it to return with the shin to the head. *Cảurảkhè ḥạ́d hạng*, a crocodile sweeps with its tail: step in to the right when attacked by a right hand, then step the left foot and using it as a pivot turn clockwise around to attack with the right heel. *Ḍaḅ jảvạlạ*, put off the light: take a left step out when the right is attacking, the left hand pushes it down while the right hand attacks simultaneously. *Dayạe gām sao*, Dayạe supports the pole: step right, the left hand guards against the attacking right leg, then the left leg shoves at the supporting leg. *Doan khun śuek*, the warrior's pike: both hands meet the attacking right leg at the ankle, turning your back to the other party and bowing your body down the right leg shoves at the chest or chin. *Ẹrạvaṇ soey ngạ*, the Ẹrạvaṇ shove up with its tusks: take a right step out against an attack by a left arm, the right arm wards it off and the left arm swings to attack. *Fhạn lụk ḅoaḅ*: here the left step is taken inwards if the attack is by a left hand, the right hand wards it off while the left elbow goes towards the face. *Glụ̀en kradoḅ fhăng*: supposing that a left hand is attacking, the right foot takes a step forwards to the left, then turn around in the counter-clockwise direction to attack with the left elbow. *Gòṇ rukkhảmụl*, brings down the Rukkhảmụl: dodge a high kick by sitting down, then one hand holds the ankle of the standing leg and pull while the other hand pushes at the knee. *Hak lhak bejr*, break the lasting pole: the left hand meets a left kick and the right grasp the heel of that leg, then jump up to sit astride the leg and pull with both hands. *Hak ngoang Aiyảrạ*, snap the elephant's trunk (proboscis): gather in the left arm the attacking right leg, then with the right hand covering the back of the head the right elbow goes to the knee bone or the thigh while the left arm lifts the leg up, and then possibly the elbow goes to the face. *Hảnumạn ḅạek khḥ̀eng*: dodge a kick, step on his other foot, then come up with fist to the chin. *Hảnumạn ḥạ́d Kumảbhaṇḍ̇a*, Hảnumạn throws Kumảbhaṇḍa (a giant): grasp the attacking right leg, turn yourself around and pivoting it on your shoulder use it as a lever and bowing down throw the person over your head. *Hảnumạn hak ḍặ̆n*, Hảnumạn breaks through the guards: step out to the left if it is a right hand which attacks, the left hand deflects its course and then the counter attacks of the left elbow to the chin and simultaneously the right knee to the solar plexus. *Hảnumạn thảvạy vhạen*, Hảnumạn offers the ring: take a right step in when the attacking hand is a right, then with two hands attack to below the chin. *Hiray mōan phặ̆endín*, Hiray (a giant) rolls up the ground: the right elbow is up to guard the attacking right leg while the body is turned around counter-clockwise so that the left elbow goes to the face. *Hongṡa pịk hak*, wing-crippled swan: step left in against an

attack made by a right hand, the left hand wards it off; the right elbow blows against the left shoulder. *Ịkạ chịk rang*, the crow tears a nest: both hands move upwards in a curve from the inside, breaking up the guarding of the arms from below, then jump and knee to the chest or chin. *Inhao dạeng krij*, Inhao stabs with the kris: the right step in if the attack in front is also the right hand, the left hand wards off; the right elbow attacks. *Jảvạ zad́ hauk*: the right step out for the incoming arm is the left one, the left arm pushes away that arm; the right elbow attacks. *Kanghan tàung lom*, the rotating sails in the wind: the right step out for an incoming left knee, the left arm wards off the knee and then goes under the leg hinge and lifts up, the right hand helps by pushing the chest back. *Khunśuek tị doan*, a warrior wields the pike: take a left step out for a straight right; the right leg kicks. *Kraiśaur khậm hòay*, a deer crossing the creek: guard with the left hand against the attacking left leg, then the left foot shove at the other, supporting leg. *Kvạd́ mạr*, sweep up the devil: the right hand touches the attacking right leg and moves from the knee to the ankle, and in doing so absorbs and annuls the incoming force, a right foot is stepped forwards. *Ling blīw*, a nimble primate: step the right foot and dodge under an attack by a left leg, dash to behind the other party and holding on to both of his shoulders knee to the back. *Lōm khun doan*, overturn the pike master: step to the left when the attack is by a left, the right hand wards it off; the right leg kicks. *Lụkgạng caḅ mhad́*, the chin catches the fist: step left and inwards when a left hand is attacking, put the chin on the upper arm while the right hand push up at the elbow. *Mauỵ yan lhak*, a Mon pushes at the pole: guard a hand attack with both arms, then shove with the foot to the body. *Moṇḍọ nàng dậen*, Moṇḍọ sits on the dais: when an attack comes on your right, turn around clockwise, jump up to sit full on the chest. *Moṇḍọ nàng tak*, Moṇḍọ sits on the lap: place the left foot slightly in front, jump up to sit on the thigh of the attacking leg when it is still gathering the momentum, rise with it to the top and return with the elbow to the face. *Nạgạ ḅid́ hạng*, Naga twists its tail: the weight on the left foot when facing the incoming right foot with the right palm, the left palm holds the heel, twists and then knee at the calf. *Nạgạ mud́ ḅạd́ạl*, Naga dives underground: step the left foot forwards and squat down to dodge the attacking right leg, then with the right leg shove at the thigh of the standing leg. *Nạrạyṇa ḅăn śiar*, Narayа beheads: a right step is taken diagonally forwards when the attack is by a right hand, and the left hand swings over it to the temple. *Nạrạy khvậng cakr*: step out to the left around a right hand attack, and then the right hand swings back to return. *Nhụ tăi rạw*: the left hand holds the left wrist and the right hand the elbow, step back and pull in the same direction of the momentum; knee or leg attacks. *Pak lụkdauy*, drive in the jack (or boule): the right foot steps forwards, facing the incoming right leg the

right elbow meets the shin while the left hand guards the neck. *Pakṣạ vhạek rang*: a right step in against a right attack, the left hand wards it off while the right hand attacks. *Pid́ pok jok d́òay śauk*: here when the attacking thing is a right hand a right step is taken inwards, the left hand covers the back of the head and the left arm the left ear, then elbow at the face. *Rad́ ngoang Ẹ̀rạvaṇ*, fasten the elephant's trunk: step right forwards and diagonally when a right leg is attacking, then push at the thigh with the left hand, then grasp it in the left armpit and the right hand goes to the face. *Rakrāe hak khạen*, the armpit breaks the arm: take a left step forwards when a left hand is attacking, the right arm circles up from the inside and catches the wrist by the armpit then the right hand push up at the elbow. *Rạmàsụr khvàng khvạn*: jump, with one arm press down all the guards; the elbow in the other arm attacks. *Ṛụeṣị hoen*, flying hermit: the left hand is pressed against just above the knee of the attacking right leg, then with its momentum and yours go for the face with your hand. *Sak boang mạlay*: a left step forward with the left hand pushing at the coming right hand; the right elbow attacks at the solar plexus. *Sàlaḅ fan plạ*: step forwards and to the right, ward the incoming left punch with the left hand; your right hand attacks. *Śauk dāydauy*, elbow the nape: step forwards and outwards, a left step if a right hand is attacking, until behind your opponent and then elbow at the nape. *Soan doan*: step forwards, the left arm punches out such that it meets the inner side of the incoming right arm, then follow by some other moves as see fit. *Tạther gāṃ fhak*: take a right step in against a right attack, guard against it with the left arm while the right hand attacks in return. *Viruṇ hok klaḅ*: attack at the thigh of the attacking right leg with the right foot and vice versa. *Yan rukkhàmụl*: dodge a kick and with elbow push the leg up. *Yạu khao Bra Sumẹru*: dodge and then punch to the chin. *Ẏoaṇ daud́ hạe*, a Vietnamese casts the net: is done by sidestepping the shoving leg and then kick at the back side of the knee of the standing leg.

Jaivaḍṅa passed both the written exam and the interview for the AFS program to go to the US for one year. Unfortunately he also passed the university entrance exams to study Medicine. He has decided to choose the latter as it can not be postponed. We have been learning an intensive course at the USIS here in Jiangmhăị for a few weeks to prepare our English for the AFS program when he learns about his university entrance results.

In May Jaivaḍṅa writes to tell that Mị̀ got in the Department of Agriculture and will study at Jiangmhăị University. Ạ́em could not pass her exam, so she will study at Rạmgaṃhạeng University which is an open university following the steps of the Open University in the UK.

One day during my first year in high-school I sit with three other members from the sword club having lunch in the cafeteria. It has been

a long while since we last done this because each one of us are from a different class. I am the youngest in the group since all the others were in their second and third years.

The conversation go from one topic to another, always with plenty of fun in all the topics. One way of teasing another was by calling him by his father's name. Some people doesn't like it and consider it very rude. Even with your close friend you had to be careful at times not to overdo this kind of practice. He could get really mad at you or thought that you were hurting his honour. Grown-ups did not do this that often, only kids. 'Tọ lāẹw,' (we are grown-up now) Thais always say, 'loek lāu jùe bàu' (stop mock me by my dad's name). Everyone knows this saying. When we have lovely trainee teachers, fresh from their graduation, I like to tease them. But I never do it in a vulgar way, and people seem to like what I do. I liked it when people laughed off-guarded at my sincere and seemingly naive words. It gave me a sense of fulfilment that I had cheered up another person. Armed with genuine sincerity I never hurt anyone with my funny teasing. In all my remarks I never hurt anybody. There are certain boundaries over which I would never venture. I maintain my creativity and sincerity throughout. Usually to other people nothing seems to be out of the way until someone with an uncultivated sense of humour makes is remark. Only then do they miss me and wish that I am around to save them from the unpleasantness. And often if I am around that is just what I normally do. Women like to listen to what I say even while, or especially when I tease them. It is never too difficult to lighten the day of others if we have the mind to. In Japan, for instance, I will come to learn in fifteen years' time from now that if someone whom you know is really mad at you, instead of blabbering on meaning less excuses you may just as well say, 'Seppuku suru!' I am then always late to my Japanese language class I really feel guilty about this but do not know how to change myself. When I come to the class late again for who know how many times, and this time terribly so, I decide I have exhausted all the likely excuses and so merely wait a second for her excusing look to set in, then bow and say, 'Seppuku shimasu!' We later become friends. She likes to talk with me, and even at times confides to me some of her troubles and worries.

But still there are sometimes things you never understand. One fine morning in our Chemistry class, she is young and kind, and is my first Chemistry teacher. I liked her very much and I know she feel the same towards me, a pure and untainted love. We merely exchange some touchés as usual, nothing out of the way, this much I am sure all the other 55 students can bear witness. She writes some thing on the blackboard and say, 'This is important! You should try to memorise it'. 'This is important,' I tell my friend Ṣẹm at the back of the room softly, for I want to make sure that he does not miss what she has just said for it is important. But she must have overheard what I said, and she say,

'But I suppose there may be someone in here who shall never need to use it', and she looks at me. Now, she starts it you see, so I am simply crestfallen and looking at the floor agree with her, 'Of course someone in here shall never need to use it'. I believe what she says, for she is my beloved teacher. But the rest of the class, you have to see them! What unreasonableness! They just go on giggling senselesslissimus. 'Shame on them!', I think. I feel all the more sad and devastated the louder they roar. She will probably think that was what I wanted, and nothing can be further away from the truth. In the end I need to go to the teachers' common room, for Pīak who is both a teacher of Chemistry, of the higher year, and my sword teacher has come to our class and tell me that I should make things up with my teacher. 'Vạ̀en,' he says simply, 'Go and apologise to your teacher!' So in that large common room I walk up to her who are sitting in the corner crying. There can be no questions whatever, neither exaggeration and imagination, for when I find her she has been crying her heart out audibly. She seems to have been doing so for a while and now her eyes are all red and flooded with tears which run down both sides of her face. I kneel down on the floor by her side on the chair, prostrate both hands and a forehead not on the floor but on her very lap, and there I remain. Then she raises me up to my feet, and by that time I have some of her tears on my head. To *krạḅ khạu dọ̣s* someone (what I had just done) in the Thai society is the best way to let someone knows you are sorry. I should have put my head on the floor according to the lore, but it was dirty and her laps are softer I could go to sleep on them in case she should never forgive me. And how could one miss such an excuse? Anyway, she thanks me. Nothing to worry about, t was not me. And, yes, I may go now. Back at the class none of the students had seen their teacher in tears. From now on I secretly try to protect her from teasing made by others whenever they start to seem improper. I simply change their nuance or, if this does not help, direct them elsewhere. I have learnt my lesson and I want to see no one in the same shoes I once found myself in. After this incident the teasing between us still go on as nothing had ever happened, except that she never cries again and I have a feeling that she is ever more polite towards me.

My sword master is the only person then who could stop me any time in almost any matter. The other day I happens to be in the principal's room asking for more financial supports from the school to my *jumnum ḱạḅ daiy* (Thai sword club). The present sharing of resources is not fair, since the *ḱontrị daiy* (traditional Thai music) Club where he rehearses several times weekly always gets the lion's part of it. My sword master comes in at the crucial moment and says, 'Van, leave this matter to me'. And, believe it or not, I put all my arguments down and take my leave without a single word more. I will never forget that surprised look

on the principal's face, who has already stood up behind his desk and talks to me rigorously with energetically. I have to fight for the right of my sword club since I am its president. *Vạ̀en*, by the way, is what people call me in our saṃnak. It simply means the glasses, that is to say, spectacles. I have been mean, however, because we do not need more money. We already have our swords and, moreover, wherever we perform we get some money all of which goes to the club's account. My master pays for many things from his own purse, and he never touches the money from our performances. More money from the school would simply go to the account, which already has enough anyhow. I doubt that Pīak would stop troubling his own pocket if our club became richer. So I am the only one, I guess, who is being unreasonable.

Back to the lunch, the time flies by as we talk ourselves out of the lunch break. The school bell rings signalling the beginning of the afternoon sessions. We loiter from the cafeteria behind all the other students. I stopped at a row of tap-water faucets to take in my fill of cool water before the sleepy lessons of the afternoon come. Then still talking and laughing with one another we walk slowly past the board where some announcements have been put up. Jayvaḍhn̂a and I chorused without preparation, 'Let's look at the announcements!' We look at each other, surprised at having heard another person say our thought. 'Have I merely thought, and imagined my having said it?', I could not help but briefly wonder. I thought I was the only one who wanted to stay away from the class for as long as possible. One ad seems interesting enough, also for both of us. It is the invitation to apply for a cultural exchange programme to go abroad through the American Field Service programs. There are two programs coming up. One is for those who want to go to America, the other for those to either New Zealand or Australia. All the programs are to be for one year, but the New Zealand one is only for ten months.

'I'm going to apply to one to America. Let's all apply together', cheerfully says Jayvatn̂a.

'All right. Let's go for it, shall we?', Cŭn chimes in who is my fighting buddy.

'I want to go to the America too, same as Jayvaḍhn̂a,' Bụ̀ng comes in, then turning towards Cŭn he says questioningly, 'How about you? You come with us too?' To which the latter replies with a nod of his head. Or it is not a nod at all, for he *bàyak* his *nhậ̀* (face), an action represents what your forehead does when you nod your head *backwards*. It is not the reverse of a nod but means exactly the same thing, that is a consent. You only do this to your friends, otherwise it is considered impolite. To give it a more definitive description, *kạr bàyak nhậ̀* is, a reverse gesture of a nod by tilting his face slightly upward with his neck as a fulcrum so that it looked somewhat like a nod except that it was made upward instead of downward'. I might as well mention that to *yak gīw* what you

do is jerk your eyebrows quickly upward and then return them to their usual position. This is the least polite of all, and it carries with it a nuance of contempt and defiance. Not only this, if you can do it with only one eyebrow, then it is even ruder. *Phảngok họa* (to nod), then, is absolutely all right, *bảyak nhậ* (to reverse-nod) is fine for a friend, *yak gīw* with two brows is ruder and with only one brow rudest. You are warned!

All three turn to look at me. (I am the president, remember?) I shrug, 'Sounds fun. Why not? You go apply together. I'll come along with you to get an application form and then think about it. You go for it, though! For me, I wouldn't stand a chance'. But there are for it an exam and a interview. How I am going to make it I never know. I am only in M4, the first year of the high school. This test is probably for all people from M4 up to M6. How could I stand a chance? Since the beginning of this term when I began the M4 I am all excited about it, for now we have the members of the fairer sex in our class. We have moved into the only building in our school where there are girls studying. But this is another matter.

'I will have none of that,' presently says Jayvaḍhṅa, our last year's president, 'because I am going to apply, you too shall apply. It's no fun doing it alone. Don't worry. Your English is good, so you will be all right.'

'That's fine!,' I go on, 'But I am not going to America. I will to go for the other one instead. I want to goto New Zealand. Let's *kra cạy kaṃlang*, shall we?' To *kra cạy kaṃlang* is to place your forces strategically instead of coming together and perish teamwise.

I remember having studied two years earlier in my Geography class about New Zealand when we learnt that the country has ten times as many sheep than people and there are no conflicts between the Maoris and the people descending from their European ancestors. This lack of racism makes it both rare and unique. 'This land,' (or rather lands) our books taught us, 'has many diverse geographical features, all very close to one another in islands which are comparably small'. I was greatly impressed. New Zealand has its plateaus and tundras, fiord lands and plains suitable for agriculture. These plains are created by the alluvial deposits from the milky-coloured rivers coming down from high snowy mountains.

In the end it turns out that I become among us not the only one who passes the test but the only one whose circumstances are free enough to go. In the Kiwi Land, apart from my Sixth Form study, I walk the Milford track with the Southerland Chapter of AFS, Arthur's pass with the Tramping Society of Ashburton, and Stewart Island and the aluminium smelting plant with Charlie. There is a visit to, and the cruises in the sounds of Blenheim and the ski trip to Mount Hutt. I perform the krabĭ and the torch-blaung on various occasions in Christchurch in a Marae

on an AFS night, at a camp in Invercargill, and on Ùay's birthday party in Blenheim. I visit and stay at a friend's farm where I see a satellite's component that has fallen on the farm. I play basketball in a few teams, but we always lose, probably from the same reason. I live with a family of sportsmen, and my dad and mum try more than once to coach me to become a swimmer. But I could never catch up with the others, because I swim badly and wrongly if these are not the same thing, so I quit swimming for good. My 6^{th}-Form English class at the Ashburton College teaches me how to approach literature, culture and philosophy. In the class, apart from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* which I must mention, we read and discuss *Bless the Beasts and Children* by Glendon Swarthout, where the following,

> O twayne me a twim, where the ffubalo jym,
> where the rede and the telopen zoom;
> where nibber is nat, a conframitous rat-tat-tat,
> and the dils are not icky all doom.

is the profound song with neither melodies nor words that is so tragic. For it represents the rage of the losers of the world in our present standard of competitiveness that is alien to God. A hopeless and innocent child who is judged as being good for nothing sacrifices his life so that we may respect God and stop destroying other species as well as our own's. The lines above, never explained to us in the book, is how someone, who is maddened and beside himself by the indecencies of the world, might sound when he tries to sing the familiar 'Home on the Range',

> Oh give me a home, where the buffalo roam,
> where the deer and the antelope play,
> where seldom is heard, a discouraging word,
> and the skies are not cloudy all day.

The climax of the story, where the sense of urgency and the despair feeling of the quest led the words to me mixed up in the head of Cotton, the leader of the group.

After having entered the Ramgaṃhaeng University I move from place to place and home finds me wherever I lay my hat, except that I have no hats. I meet Young and Kànok, so the nice folks all seem to be here while the less friendly ones are either studying Engineering or Medicine. I am doing the degree of Computer Science, and so are they, though they turn to something else later. Both agree that I am crazy. 'Poor Vàen,' Young muses, 'it must have been because of your disappointment. You could have done better in the university-entrance exams'. I agree with them, but not until after I have visited them at the university's second campus one day. They live in the same building, so we sat together in one of their rooms and talked. That was when Young suggested, as is his wont, that I would never dare walk into the campus having on only the

T-shirt and the underwear. Nobody could challenge me to do something honest, so I went downstairs in that manner, walked the 100 metres and entered the gate. It was during weekends, so there were not that many people around. It was agreed that I would walk to the canteen and back, but instead of doing that I hid in the bush behind the wall for the whole designated time, before coming back to claim the bet of 100 ḅạd.

Every first-year student studies at this second campus, but I live behind the first campus which is an hour away by bus and have to go there everyday on a 207 bus. The buses are incredibly packed, especially on the way back after the class because everyone always leaves at the same time.

I also attend classes in Astronomy, Japanese, English Literature and Writing, all of which are irrelevant to my degree. In the writing class we learn how to write a haiku in English. There are to be three lines, their lengths respectively being 5, 7 and 5 syllables. Then I write the following one.

> The cobra poised,
> Waiting for its prey to come
> closer to its side.

Culạlongkaurṇ Mảhạvidảyạlay, or Chulalongkorn University officially in English, was built from the remaining of the money that people donated for the purpose of the statue of King Rama V on horse back which was done in France. Thus it was built with an original fund of 950,982.39 ḅạd on a 523.6 acre piece of land in Taṃḅol Pảdumvan under King Mongkuḍ who is the son of Rama V, King Culảcaum. Before that there used to be on this piece of land a Mảhạd́lek school, that is a school for royal pages, which was changed into the new Civil Servant School of King Culảcaum on 1 January 1910. On 26 March 1916 King Mongkuḍ changed the premises again into the Culạlongkaurṇ university. It had four departments, namely Medicine, Public Administration (Raṭhảpraśạsảnảśạstŕa), Engineering and the fourth and last faculty, the Department of Literature and Science. The Public Administration Department was transfered to Dharrmảśạstŕa University in 1933. Two independent departments were created in 1934 for Architecture and Pharmacy (Phảnạek Prungyạ). Another independent department, Veterinary, was founded in 1937. In 1939 saw two more departments came into being, one Dentistry, the other Commerce and Accountancy. Department of Political Science was created in 1948, Department of Education 1957, Department of Graduate Studies 1961 and Department of Mass Communication and Public Relations 1965.. There are buildings named after Professor Thaeḅ Niạlanidhi, who was Vice-chancellor from 17 August 1957 to 29 August 1961, and Professor M. R. V. Slaḅ Lảd́ạvalẏa who was the Secretary from 25 November 1949 until 1 March 1956. Strangely enough, Field-marshal Plạek Biḅụlsonggrạm was the

Chancellor from 25 November 1936 to 3 November 1944, and then again from 21 October 1944 until 16 August 1950.

During 1986 and 1987 I sing much. We form a group who travel together often. Our group comprises, among others, Ben, Mūy, Pop and Tŭy. Tặu sings but he never travels with us. He is a good singer, a tenor with light, resonating operatic voice. Man is also a good tenor but he never sings with us. He is somewhat self-centred and eccentric. He comes to see our production La Traviata at the auditorium at CU and says that he likes it. His favourite tenor is Placido Domingo (b. 1941) whereas Tặu's is Luciano Pavarotti (b. 1935). David who sings Alfredo for us in the opera prefers Pavarotti's to Domingo's singing because the the former's method is correct whereas that of the latter is wrong. 'It only works for himself', he says, 'No one knows how it does. It is of no use to others and you get nowhere if you follow him'. I think that people like his singing because of the tension in it. You expect his voice to crack at anytime, even when no very high notes are involved. The tension is resolved with the completion of each phrase. This tension and resolution make his singing a dramatic and tragic traits. By contrast, Pavarotti's voice is so relaxed and resonates so well with the surrounding that you hear it coming from everywhere. It engulfs you whole, and in doing so rids all the muscles of your body of tension and while it lasts even your eyes lose their focus.

La Traviata (*the wayward one*, 1853) is an opera in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901). The text is written by Francesco Maria Piave (1810 – 1876) after the drama *La Dame aux Camélias* (1852) by Alexandre Dumas (*fils*, 1824 – 1895), after his novel of the same title (1848) which is based on his own experience. This opera is the story of the courtesan Violetta who is loved by and thereby loves Alfredo Germont. She renounces her love to suit the request made by Giorgio who is Alfredo's father. Then he insults her, and has himself denounced by his own father and threatened by Baron Douphol. She dies of consumption in her lover's arm. How tragically romantic! Alexandre Dumas junior is the son of Alexandre Dumas (1802 – 1870), also a writer, who in turn is the son of Alexandre Davy de Pailleterie Dumas (1762 – 1806), a French general and commander of a cavalry of Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 – 1821). The following year, 1987, La Traviata is played in Singapore where David also sings. We go there together in Ben's wagon, the Volkswagen, to watch them play.

I sang the Messiah at the Vaḍhảṇa Church in 1986 when Man was the soloist. I am singing it again now in 1987 when the soloist is Santi who is Man's teacher. He used to conduct the RU Chorus, and so he is also the teacher of Tặu. He became well-known through his singing the nationalistic songs during the predicament regarding Vietnam and our other communist neighbours, in the decade before about five years

ago, some example of the songs of which are *Gvạmfhan an sụng sud́* (the highest dream) and *Nhak phặendín* (unworthy to live). Georg Friedrich Händel (1685 – 1759) wrote the Messiah in 1741. This is the Messiah which, when Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809) heard the chorus sang its 'Hallelujah' in the Westminster Abbey, rose to his feet with the crowd, wept, and said, 'He is the master of us all'. He can achieve great effects with simple means. The tenor's solo part begins with, "'Come forth thee! Come forth ye my people!", saith your God', and the Hallelujah Chorus, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdoms of this world is become the Kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever'.

Kaṃdhaur is also a good singer, or so I have heard for I have never heard him sing. I think that he sings bass, but he no longer sings now, only teaches. Ben introduces me to *Der Ring der Nibelungen* by Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883) and let me listen to his records of this opera. Kaṃdhaur also like this opera. He often watches it in Bayreuth, in Bavaria, which has been home to the Richard Wagner Festivals since 1876. On 22 May 1872 the foundation-stone for the theatre was laid, and on the same day Wagner conducted Beethoven's 9^{th} symphony in the local theatre. The theatre opened on 13 August 1876 with the Rheingold launching the first complete Ring cycle ever to be given. Der Ring der Nibelungen comprises three days' concert and a preliminary evening, dubbed *tetralogy*. Wagner wrote his own text which is based on the Nibelung Saga. The Nibelungen (Nibelungs) are dwarfs in the German mythology who possess great underground riches, and whose king is Nibelung. Written by an anonymous author around 1200, the *Nibelungenlied* (the song of the Nibelungs) depicts Siegfried, the master of the Nibelungs' treasure, being exploited by Gunther to win the hand of Brunhild for him, his marriage with Kriemhild who is Gunther's sister, treacherous murder of Siegfried by Hagen, and the revenge for the same on the latter by his wife Kriemhild. The four parts of the opera are Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung. In *Das Rheingold* the Nibelung dwarf Alberich renounces love to steal the Rhinegold from the Rhine-maidens. He forges himself a ring and thereby becomes master of the world. Obtained by trick from Alberich, Wotan gives both the Rhinegold and the Ring to the giants Fasolt and Fafner as payment for the building of the Valhalla, the hall in which slain heroes are feasted. Immediately the ring shows its sinister power, for Fafner kills Fasolt. Wotan begets Siegmund and Sieglinde on earth with the hope that they will one day kill Fafner and restore the ring to the Rhine-maidens. Sieglinde is married to Hunding while Siegmund has to lead a wandering life. In *Die Walküre* (the Valkyrie), Siegmund pulls the sword Nothung from the rock after having made love with his own sister Sieglinde. Brünnhilde, Wotan's favourite Valkyrie, sides

with Siegmund, but Wotan shatters Nothung and kills him. Siegfried is born while Brünnhilde is put to sleep on a rock surrounded by fire. Siegfried is brought up by Mime, the dwarf and brother of Alberich. In *Siegfried*, Mime plans to kill Siegfried but is killed by him first despite the latter having been reared by him. Then with Nothung in his hand and the ring on his finger he shatters Wotan's spear, goes through the fire, wake Brünnhilde up and makes love to her who is his aunt. In *Götterdämmerung* (the twilight of the gods) Siegfried is drugged by Alberich's son, Hagen, and forgets who he is. He forces his own wife and aunt to marry Gunther, whereby his aunt plans his death with Hagen and Gunther. He is given the second drug to restore his memory, and dies by Hagen's spear in his back. His wife removes the ring from his finger, puts it on her own and plunge into the flaming pyre to her death together with her horse Grane. Before you have the time to start counting the hall collapses, the Rhine overflows, Hagen drowns, Valhalla is all aflame, the kingdom of the gods is destroyed and a new era of love dawns. Obviously in this new era one loves his sister and aunt but never sleeps with them. This opera was misused by Adolf Hitler (1889 – 1945) and his ultra-nationalist and racist Nazism, to whom Siegfried was adopted as the ideal youth. Obviously they wanted to get back to the previous era before the gods perished in the Valhalla's flame, and possibly to seek again after the lost ring. At the Śṛiṅgārindrviroṇa University at Prasanmitr Tău, Man and I watch Kaṃdhaur's video of the Bayreuth production of this opera, in which Siegfried cries, 'Nothung! Nothung! neidliches Schwert!'

We also watch on other occasions *Le Nozze di Figaro* (the marriage of Figaro, 1786) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791), and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (the barber of Seville, 1816) by Gioacchino Rossini (1792 – 1868). Both of these operas are based on a novel by Pierre Augustin Caron Beaumarchais (1732 – 1799), that is *le Barbier de Séville* (1775) and *le Mariage de Figaro* (1784, some say it was from *La Folle Journée, ou Le Mariage de Figaro* of 1778) in the opposite order. Il Barbier di Siviglia is a story of the courting and marriage of Count Almaviva with Rosina who is under the guardian of Bartolo, who wants to marry her himself. Almaviva disguises first as Lindoro, a poor student, and then as Don Alonso, a singing teacher. The marriage is seen to by Figaro, a barber and factotum. This story has also been made into operas by Elsperger (1783), Benda (1785), Schulz (1786), Isouard (1796), Morlacchi (1816), Dallargine (1868) and Graffigna (1879). Le Nozze di Figaro is a story of the marriage between Figaro and Susanna. The Count wants to make love to the latter, and Bartolo wants to trap Figaro into marrying Marcellina. Both Marcellina and Bartolo, however, turn out to be Figaro's parents. In the garden the Count courts his own wife, who is in the disguise of Susanna. All ends well.

Albeit his unaccustomed skill, Mozart only writes customary music.

It is said that he laughs at the idea of being original, and yet his music bears the most distinct mark that can seldom be mistaken for those of the others. May be one of the reasons for this is that he inspires none and is followed by no one. He remained a prodigy until his death, never philosophised or became a philosopher.

One should approach music differently depending on whether he is a listener, scholar, musician, or composer. The listener listens first, and then finds out about the form later. The scholar must know both the structure and the harmony to be able to probe and discuss what he hears. The musician, on the other hand, never listen before he has played the piece first, otherwise he risks the influence of other people's interpretation on his. The composer must wrestle with form unless he is content to write only small pieces. Music is a communication, but not every piece of music is meant for everyone. Most pieces are a communication from the composer to the listener, others from the same to the scholar or musician. But nowadays there are more and more communications between composers. Ben says, 'The purpose of music is to communicate', when I observe that his repertoire reaches as far as the early romantic period and there stops. I mention to him Arnold Schönberg (1874 – 1951) and Paul Hindemith (1895 – 1963), to which he says, 'Music no longer has any meaning to me unless it can communicate'. Schönberg may be unable to communicate with Ben through his music, but whether this was his purpose is questionable. A composer should contribute new ideas and create new things, or at the least he should carry on from where his predecessor has stopped. Schoönberg, or at least some of his later works, communicates with composers, which include his students. His understanding and insight into the working of harmony (Manual of Harmony, 1911) can find no equals. He profoundly influences the music of the 20th century. In this way one may say that he stands in a status similar to that of Beethoven. But while it is sometimes said that he influences the Neo-romantic School, as Stravinsky does the Anti-romantic, Beethoven influences all the schools that come after him. Atonal music should always be viewed as a communication among composers. It is a probe into the working of the ears as much as abstract paintings that of the eyes. Both help us understand better how our mind works.

We travel to various places in Thailand. We go to the national park Khaoyhaiy which is in the Bànomd́ongrak Mountain Range and covers the areas of four provinces, namely Nàgaurnạyok, Nàgaurrạjàsịmạ, Prạcịnbụrị and Sàrabụrị. It was known in the past as the D́ongbàyạfai, a dense and deadly jungle that divided the middle part of Thailand from the north-east. In 1922 some 30 people settled there, and on 18 September 1962 it became the first national park of Thailand. The highest peak here is the Khao Ròm at 1,351 metres. Others average approximately 1,000-metre high.

In 1987 I live at the dormitory at the Culạlongkaur University. My room mates are Cīaḅ, Ké and Nhĭng. Yhí also lives here on a different floor. I go together with him to the wharfs at Glaungtoey because there is a peace ship that sails around the world carrying books which they sell cheaply. I buy quite a few books, some of which prove not so interesting. But there is a very good one called *Worlds in Collision* by Immanuel Velikovsky.

My beloved Ace, was it you who asked me whether we love each other, or was it I who were dreaming? I am afraid I answered you too late, but let me tell you something on the matter regarding England and the Inter-rail Ticket. The first time that I went to England it was for a job training. I was doing my Bachelor of Engineering in Mineral Engineering at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. As every third-year student, who was called a junior, had to have a training with a company during his summer vacation, and I did not want to do mine in Thailand, I had tried hard to find opportunities to go working abroad. The reason why I did not want to take what was called an engineering practice course in Thailand was that I did not want to study the Mineral Engineering. During the second semester of my first year at the faculty when we were allowed to choose our main subject, I chose mine Electrical, Computer, Mechanical, Petroleum, Chemical, Mining Engineering and so on. There were about thirteen engineering branches for us to choose from and I put Mining Engineering as my sixth choice. That year Electrical Engineering was a hit, and my number two through to five were taken up by so many students as their first choice so I was left with my Mining one. The Mineral Engineering was a part of Mining Engineering and came later. As you can see that I did not want that subject in the first place, I always tried to switch to Electrical Engineering thereafter. But because of my poor grades, which started right at the very beginning of my career studying at Chula and without which I would have got my first choice of major in the first place anyway, I never managed to get anywhere near my dream. Looking back now I think I like Mineral Engineering. When I was in New Zealand I took Geology and went fossil-hunting with my teacher whose acknowledged nickname among his students was Worm, but you shouldn't let him hear you calling him that of course. But I always did what people around me did and always followed what was fad at the time, so I had nearly no qualm at all in choosing Electrical Engineering when I was asked to choose something. Many of my friends did the same thing anyway, so why not? From my childhood on I had been turning away from my dreams one-by-one, starting from my wanting to study Astronomy, and then Cosmology, and then Engineering, before I came back to that last one again. Yes I was a happy child in a sense. I did what my friends did and got on well all right. And no, I was not a happy child in a sense that I had not nearly enough of myself to hold on to. You know what I mean.

In order to find a place to fulfil my dream of doing the engineering practice abroad (one reason for this was that I wanted to do the job training at an electrical engineering firm instead of in a mine which I thought I hated at the time) I went to the British Council in Bangkok and looked up a directory of companies in U.K. Having noted down about twenty addresses, having looked at them for a while not knowing what I should do I went to visit Khun Amnad (now Guṇ Aṃnạc) to seek advice. In Thailand Khun (Guṇ) is a prefix to be put in front of a person's name to imply a somewhat high regard felt toward that person, much the same as *san* is in Japan for example Hashimoto san (Mr Bridgesfoot perhaps). Also as in the case of san, Guṇ is a title with equality between both sexes, that is it can be used before a female's as well as before a male's name. You must never call anyone *kuṇ*, of course, because that means a disabled person. *Khun*, however, means a king, and that is even better flattering than the *Guṇ* provided that you knew how to use it.

Aṃnạc (Guṇ is respectfully gone now, in English) and I got to know each other while I was a first year student at the Rạmgaṃhạeng University, which was then the only open-university in Thailand. It is located in Bangkok. I was a tenor in the university's chorus called the Ramkamhaeng University Chorus or RU Chorus for short. One day I followed a group of a few members in the choir to visit his home for an interview. Guṇ Aṃnạc was an architect and the wooden two-storeyed house he rented on Sukhumvit 43 Road was the office of his own company as well as his home. The house was air-conditioned and was furnished with the right proportion of Thai somewhat-antiques and music. A full-sized concert grand had its body stashed away under the stairs which turned up toward the second floor. On one side of it stood a wall of the house, on the other lay the part of the same stair before the landing. The lightings inside the house were all table lamps and ceiling spot-lights with warm-toned colour. The lamps were all incandescent and none fluorescent. Having said that, the Rạmgaṃhạeng University was started in 1971 whereas the Dharrmàśạtŕa University began in 1934 as an open-university. But the latter later closed itself. No, it has not closed itself *down* but simply *closed* itself, which is the more pity since I could have gone there instead for all I know, which in turn could have meant a pity for *them* there. The name 'Ramkamhaeng' is the English name of the university, while 'Rạmgaṃhạeng' the Thai name, which has become a possible rendering of the correct Thai spelling since December 2001 when I discovered the method *alone* while living, sadly also alone, at the then new Sir Charles Groves Hall of Residence in Manchester, UK. So if a nobody should say otherwise, there you have the information. But do not judge him for he knew not what he did. But that is a matter for another time in the present world.

I went to the border of the Snowdonia National Park. And I was also

in Liverpool on the very day that the football fans there accidentally crushed (unbelievable) one another to death (60 persons, Jesus!) I went sailing from Portsmouth to Cherbourg and back. Rough sea on the way there it was, but smooth as silk on the return trip. We walked in that small but lovable French town when my friends bought some wine. We then sat together outside and in the sun to have our coffee. I had to talked with the police upon returning to the UK because I only had a single entry visa, but fortunately (for me) we have with us a professor so there was no problem. Actually it was *his* boat. I felt knocked about in the car on the way back home.

Regarding my Interrail ticket, it was bought (the ticket) in Dover. With it I went to Belgium, Luxembourg, sleeping on board the trains in general, but only during the nights when there was nothing to see. The Rhein is magnificent, and that is all I can say about it for I only look at it from the window of the train. I slept in the Frankfurt am Main Station, at a police station in Denmark. Then I gave myself a change and try sleeping on in a train, only to find myself waking up in Sweden. I still have not woken up when I met a guy. I nearly quarrelled with him because of his unfriendly look. But it turned out that was only because he thought I was from Japan and probably very rich. And I can tell you no one was then (1989) richer than the Swedish except (perhaps a few) Japanese. Oh! them and the Queen, you know which queen I am talking about. But I told him I was from Thailand, and suddenly we became friends. He said that I must be very poor, and I was not offended for in fact I am very poor. He was like a child. We all are, like a child I mean. So like children we visited his mother in his home town by a beautiful lake. This home of is where his mother lived overlooks the lake. I ate the most delicious cookies I had ever eaten at his home, made by his mother. He must have worried lest I ate all his cookies, for we are soon off again. He took me to the pizza in the cold outside by the road, like they do in the Wild West. You may be interested to know that while *krone* is the currency of Norway and Denmark, that of Sweden and Iceland is *krona*. I never asked him who was going to pay for the pizza (because it was him who took me away from the cookies, remember?). And he never said he would treat me to the pizza, but we both knew that I had no money, no kronas anyhow, and somebody has to pay for the food. The country around us was very hilly. We went to his farm house, or rather *their* farm house because he lives and works in Stockholm. We watched a concert in a shop's opening ceremony. It was a ceremony even though there were not ten people attending it. The town is that small, and everyone knows everyone here. The fiddle made it very homely and I nearly cried, but for you my dear. Now, did the pizza come before or *after* the concert, that *is* the question. Anyhow it was not that but the beer which I drank that put me to sleep inside the warm train. Never forget to take off your jacket (I was going to say clothes, forgive me)

on the train in a cold country, because while the train's heater is the regulator of the car's temperature it is you who are the regulator of your own body's temperature. To cut things short, I missed my station. So carried on to the Ofotel (I keep thinking it was Otofel) line across to Norway. Beautiful! 'It is all snowy and white and black are the only two colours', you might have said. But, Oh! dear this was romantic. And I *thought* that was what you were. I hitchhiked down the coast of Norway, firstly in a pick-up truck to the people inside which we talked about China's Tiananmen, then in an old lady's car whose driving was so exciting together with the winding road and the steep cliffs I am glad when it was over.

talked with gestures and turned to look at me, fiords, Norway's five fiords or five fingers, sang national anthems, Thai first by me then Norway's, she remembered the king of Thailand's visit to Norway right after his coronation, she thought he was very handsome more so than locals, got some coins I am not yet homeless, and I am no mad man, but I am a nomad. man. Do you copy? You know I will only change for you dear, in to anything.

But we are in our dream, for life is but a dream. So if we dream tonight that would be the dream of a dream, and if in our dream we happen to be dreaming, that is yet a dream within the dream of a dream. You can go on and on in this manner, and of course there is a limit to sanity!

Hungary. As I have told you before that I had applied for traineeships with AIESEC, Thailand, and got accepted. In the summer holiday of 1990 while I was during my fourth year at the university I decided to go to Hungary for the training. Because I would had to study one more year since I was both trying to finish a degree in Mineral Engineering and at the same time trying to take as many subjects in Electrical Engineering as possible as a step toward a hopefully second degree in Electrical Engineering, I had to ask for a short four-month training instead of the offered two-year one. My job was supposed to be that of a programmer at 10,000 forints a month which was approximately US $100 a month, as the Forint was at that time approximately at the same value as the Yen was except that one was not even a hard currency while the other was rock solid.

As about how I managed to get through the procedure of applying with AIESEC, first we had an English Exam which followed what the IELTS was and thus was considered difficult, even more difficult than the TOEFL organised every few months by the Americans or at least that was what the general feeling was anyway. I represented as an applicant from an open university, and thus stood a meagre chance in passing even that first round. I came out first, surpassing applicants from all other more prestigious universities. That would not have been a surprise if everyone had known that I was studying at the Chulalongkorn University myself. My double roles of being a student at the best and the worst

(in other people's standard, neither God's nor mine) universities at the same time had at times led to interesting situations such as this one, and even to dilemmas sometimes. Fortunately there was no AIESEC club at Chulalongkorn University in 1990 since it had been closed down some years ago due to circumstances unknown to me, so I did not have to compete with any of my colleagues or my juniors or my seniors.

Then there came an interview which was held one person at a time and in English. I had a feeling that the interview had not been necessary in my case since every one would like me to go anyway, if only because of the enormous efforts the AIESECers of RU had put in finding companies here who are willing to receive trainees from abroad. Automatically applicants from RU should have had the largest share of all the quotas of traineeships available, but since its students could rarely pass the first round of the multiple-choice exam it nearly always get the least. In other words, had I not make it through the interviewing every one would surely have questioned the interviewers, 'Are you nut? What the matter was wrong with Kit?' and so on.

After having passed the written and oral exams there was only matching left, where applicants were matched with suitable companies from the then 72 countries all over the world. I got matched to a company in Budapest to work as a programmer. That was in 1988 and Hungary was still a communist country. Not wanting to go to what was then called an Eastern Block country, which meant a communist country in Eastern Europe, I decided to go to England for my job training in 1989 after having postponed my schedule with AIESEC until the following year. When next year actually came, Hungary had suddenly became a democratic country. So I decided that I would like to go there as a trainee with AIESEC. When at last came the summer of 1990 which was my fourth and supposedly last year at the university, I found out that I had still one more year of study to go before I could graduate as a Mineral Engineer. Therefore I had to shorten my two-and-a-half year plan to four months in order to just fit the traineeships into one summer vacation, much the same as when I went to England the previous year. The only difference was that, unlike in 1989, this time I told my parents where I was going to be during the summer holidays. No, the reason I did this was not repentance, but simply because I had somehow upset everybody in my family last year when no one knew where I was and they had not heard from me at all during the net period of four months. And I was asked never to do that again. Anyway, I am no nuts so I should know by myself that there is no future in doing this kind of thing twice. And I did not want to be tied down to my bed if it ever came to that.

This time I bought a return ticket from a travel agency which said I was going to fly the Polish Air since the price was the lowest. Price has always been a major concern to me. It was especially so then when I

was still a student. So I finished my last exam of that year, had about two days in order to pack my things, and then off I went to Warsaw for a transit and then to Budapest my destination. When I arrived I was welcomed by two AIESECers there. One of them was Szitzo, a plumb girl with a huge pair of breasts with very likeable manner who was going to be my personal counsellor during my time in Budapest, or so I was told. They took me by car to the apartment where I was going to live. I lived in an apartment where we, on the very first evening that I arrived, went out at once, to a party. I never liked parties you see. But now I live for one [not any more, not now] and it all started from my time here in Budapest. Rob from Canada, Timo West Germany, Tanya from Australia, they are all great folks, that is only if you compare them with me of course. Before the German Reunification it was, and I was then 23 – 24, so you know now how old I am. We have AIESEC meetings (what else would you expect, I am an AIESEC trainee) and study tours. One of the conferences we had was at a hotel, which was closed to all other guests apart from us. There I drank lots of vodka and tried the Hungarian dances. It is only a pity (or a pity only?) that for the former I now forget everything about the latter. One public telephone at the hotel was out of order in such a way that you may make a call absolutely free of charge. I called people in Thailand at three in the morning, which is eight or nine in Thailand. I phoned home and then to a friend, who did not believe that I was calling from Europe. 'You are kidding!', she said. We stayed at the hotel. There were plenty of rooms for us to freely choose from. The building has around 5 – 6 floors. When I woke up at nine in the morning to go to work I had to climb the windows of the third or fourth floor. These German guys whom I politely asked to keep their voice low the previous night had locked the door from the outside. They did not want me to be able to go to work even if I could get some sleep among the din they made. I always sought a room with windows opening towards the East. Last night before going to bed I was fuzzy swapping rooms. Szentendra is at the bend of the Donau (Danube) north of Budapest. Budapest is divided into three parts, namely Buda, Old Buda and Pest. Buda is hilly with underground caves, forest, castles. Rich families and those in the Party live there. The caves are wide and have many tiers. You only climb down to certain levels. There are shafts of bottomless pit with the frightening darkness when you peer down into them. Parts of these caves were used for prisoners in the past. These could have been political prisoners. Here are on display torturing tools, for example there are several cages to put a person into, one with spikes inside, another dipped down a water hole, and yet another so small. We did some orienteering when we walk far and wide, to the castle for instance. I sang songs together with four or five friends in the street, at the square where the British Council is. People gave us money which they put in the hat which we put down in front of us. This is a part of

the orienteering. It is like a Herculean task. We swam at pools which are out door. One of these are on an island in the middle of Danua. We walked there across a bridge on one cold day. The pool has an elongated shape and is very long, more than a hundred metres, more likely 150, I would say. For I kept swimming on and on but never reach the other side. In the end this happened. Then I walked over to a lawn, and there lay myself down in the sun. We also went to wine cellars. Once in one of these we drank warm wine served in litre-flasks. Some musicians were playing the dulcimer, violin, and viola. Outside the place was a carousel which we went on when we first arrived at this place. Somebody there who had the key let us play on it for a while even though the fun ground was closed. The wobbling disc revolved so fast that it was so scary. We sang songs and played games and puzzles over the table. These we challenged each other over our table and then other tables gave us several more to solve. I managed to solve a few of them, and thereby a few others were passed on to me which I also solved. Then people stood up and drank to my health. Before they did that, they sang in resounding voices the song the favourite of us which says nothing apart from 'Bravo!' and 'Bravissimo!' Let α be the former while β the latter, then the words of song we sang is, $(4 \times \alpha)\beta\alpha\beta\alpha\beta(4 \times \alpha)\beta$.

You may stop looking at the moon now. I have given up looking at it since who know when. Why? Because I never found you there. Telepathy only works if you know how to turn it on at the same time. Myself, I shall never know how to work these gadgets, technologies are never for me (though I am for them). Is it not called sympathy? I keep forgetting things, the memory is failing me. Oh, my health be no good as usual but I still remember you.

The meanderings of the Càobrayạ River are simply baffling. Looking at the map it is a wonder that no one has tried to put a bypass in at Braprad́ạeng and thus shorten it by more than 30 times. Should this be done, however, the port at Glaungtoey would soon find itself without enough water to run a paper boat, and that would never do. This is probably the reason for having no bypasses there. One could also notice that whenever there had been a bypass of the river it was always done in such a manner that the island thus formed lay on the western side of the new course of the river, never on the eastern one. The Kred́ Island in Nondàḅurị is another one of such examples. I wonder whether this could be the result of some superstition. During the Ȧyudhàyạ Period when Ḅạngkauk was an agricultural area which was nearly completely surrounded by such a bend. Ironically the place where Bangkok is now is not Ḅạngkauk but on the opposite bank of the river to the east of it. The place where Tạksin the Great built his new capital was in Ḅạngkauk, and in theory should have been completely surrounded by existing body of water, the Cào Brayạ River on the right and the old course of that

river elsewhere. But the latter by then had dried up considerably, and on that side lay the Burmese. It is a matter of course that one should distant himself from a roguish neighbour, and that is essentially what Rama I did for he moved the capital to the eastern side of the river and thereby put it between himself and the direction of Burma. The Khảmẹ̣r on our back never attacked us.

It is generally assumed that the history of Thailand includes the Sukhọ̣day and the Ảyudhảyạ periods. In general we only know when they reigned and when died. The dates of birth of the kings are still lacking in Thai history. Ảyudhảyạ had 33 kings, namely Ramadhiḅàdị́ I (Ử̃daung) who reigned during 1350 – 1369, Rạmẹ̣śoar 1369 – 1370 and 1388 – 1395, Rạjạdhirạj I (Bảngọ̀a) 1370 – 1388, Daunglan 1388, Rạmrạjạ 1395 – 1409, Indảrạdhirạj 1409 – 1424, Rạjạdhirạj II (Sạm Brayạ) 1424 – 1448, Trailọ̀kảnạth 1448 – 1488, Rạjạdhirạj III 1488 – 1491, Rạmạdhiḅàdị́ II 1491 – 1529, Rạjạdhirạj IV (Nhặ̆u Buddhạngkụr) 1529 – 1533, Rạsàd́ạdhirạj 1533 – 1534, Jayrạjạdhirạj 1534 – 1546, Yaudf̀ā or Kàewfā̀ 1546 – 1548, Mảhạcakrảbarrdi 1548 – 1568, Mảhinddhạdhirạj 1568 – 1569, Mảhạdharrmảrạjạ 1569 – 1590, Nảrẹ̣śoar the Great 1590 – 1605, Ẹ̀kạdośảroth 1605 – 1610, Śrịsaovảbhạgỷa 1610, Drongdharrm 1610 – 1628, Jẹ̀sṭhạdhirạj 1628 – 1629, Ạditảyảvongśxa 1629, Prạsạddaung 1629 – 1656, Càofā̀jaiy 1656, Śrịsudarrmảrạjạ 1656, Nạrạyṇa the Great a 1656 – 1688, Bẹd Rạjạ 1688 – 1703, Sarrbejỷa VIII (Sụa) 1703 – 1708, Dā̀y Sra 1708 – 1732, Ḅảromảkọ̀ś 1732 – 1758, Ùdumbaur 1758, and Ẹ̀kảdaś 1758 – 1767. Jaiyrạjạdhirạj communicated with China and Portugal, so he dug (1534 – 37, others say 1522) the canal as the result of which the old course of the river which went around Ḅạngkauk is now reduced to the Ḅạngkauknāuy, Ḅạngkhunśrị (Jak Bra) and Ḅạngkaukỵhặ̄ị (Ḅạnglhoang) canals.

At this time the roads in Bangkok do nothing apart from following the courses of the canals. For example, the Ặunnuj Road which follows the Pravẹ̀śḅurịromỷa Canal, the Bejrḅurị and the Rạmgaṃhạeng which follow the Sạensạeḅ Canal (built by Rama III in 1837), and the Vibhạvảd́ị Rangsit which follows the Prẹm Prajạkaur Canal (built by Rama V in 1870). The Prapạ Canal is the cleanest canal in Bangkok because its water is used for making the water supply of the city, hence the name. The Prajạjụ̀en Road follows it faithfully all the way on the west.

I prepare nothing when the subject is the English language, except perhaps on the last day before the exam. But I always either come out top of the class or get an A. But I love the English Literature something or another of which I always read. I read apart from Shakespeare (1564 – 1616), Dickens (1812 – 1870) and Mark Twain (1835 – 1910). You approach a book as you do a new puzzle. You recreate things that appeared in the mind of the writer and has happened again many times in the mind of other readers. Though it has been four centuries since

Shakespeare lived, a part of his thought comes to life again in my mind while I read his works. Once published, a book may have neither past, present, nor future. It is like a line which runs along side and parallel to us in both time and space, waiting for us to tap into it and let our imagination experience what it contains. Before sitting an exam in English I would read some literary works in order that my mind may think fluently in English not in Thai. This method can be applied to other things too, for example to studying for an Engineering degree. Here you never tackle the theories until you have seen the problems, the same way that you look upon the grammar as the means not the end. Less lucky than you I am, for I still have not discovered this. As a consequence of this, the results in my study plummet until my prospect looks as hopeless and impossible as no one could dare imagine.

There is a song which compares the tree Cạmcurị (Samanea saman) in the different seasons to the state of mind of the students during different period through out their study. Freshmen are compared with this tree when it is at the peak of its beauty. Being pampered by their seniors and finding out many new things they are happy until the study gets tougher, the time of which is compared to the tree when its leaves are falling. The most difficult period is when the pods are falling, which is compared to a student whose study results have been so bad that the one to come will soon decide whether he will be able to to carry on with his study.

Another song is from the Thai Navy. It is about the Pradử (Pterocarpus indicus), the tree the flowers of which are well known for their unusual blooming and falling characteristic. All its flowers is said to bloom together, and when the time comes they would fall together until no flowers are left on the tree. This characteristic makes people use them as a symbol of the navy. Here the crews go where and when goes their ship, and all are in trouble if it should sink. This song is memorable to me because I heard it when I was about twelve, when my father took my sister Nhăung and me on a trip organised by the Royal Navy Society. We stayed at the naval base in Satảhịḅ. I listened to all the songs of the navy that they played on the bus until I knew them well. I also became used to sitting in my window seat on the bus so much that I had a strange feeling getting into my father's car after we had returned to Jiangmhăi, the same feeling it is, to what a sailor feels when he is back on land after having been at sea for months, except that it was no more than several days in this case.

Everyone in Bangkok is fed up with the traffic here. I have no ideas why they could not or would not build an underground train. There is this believe that the water-table here is high. But tunnels for trains have been built under channels all over the world where they must be under the water-table, so I do not know where the true trouble lies. What makes it worse to me is that there are neither day-passes nor

term-tickets on the bus, so you can not get off the bus when the traffic comes to a standstill because you would need to buy another ticket if you were to get on another bus later. I always say to Ben that I long for the time when we have day-passes on the bus, and in 2002 this dream is to be realised.

On 30 December 1991 I contact Coignaud regarding the designers from France. I am now working at Loxley, a sales engineer who sells the circuit breakers Unelec. In the evening I meet Mhặem at the her dormitory in the Rama Hospital. There is a New Year party at Loxley this evening and we go there together.

I begin to study German at the Goethe Institut in Bangkok. On Thursday 2nd January 1992 I go to the Institut on the Z. Arrthȧkạrprasiddha to apply, and on Saturday 11 January my first lesson starts. We meet PODC people quite often. We go together the Pata department store at Pĭnklào on Monday 6th January for a dinner at the Suki Deluxe. I also make quotations of our products to both Vaurȧcakr and TEP, and we get in touch with both Roncelli and Bouygues-Thai. Get visits people at these companies regularly because it is his responsibility to entertain the customers. I only do quotations. I do not yet know much about the working of circuit breakers and the design of an electrical power system. Practical Engineering sometimes make the cabinets for our breakers. I use my degree in Mining Engineering to work here, and I am studying for another Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering. There is an exam on Illumination in the morning of Monday 20th January. I still study Computer Science at Rạmgaṃhạeng, the open university. On Saturday 25 January Mhặem and I go to Rayaung together and on Friday 31st I have to hand in an Assembly language assignment.

By March 1992 I have already begun my study of the French language at the l'Alliance Française on Sạdhaurtàị Road, Bangkok. My classmate here, Ṭhiginạth, was born on 23rd March and we are going to celebrate it somewhere a week later than the actual date. I still sell the Unelec circuit breaker, and we have one project in our hand for Bận Soanbejr waiting for delivery. I have applied again for AIESEC traineeships, and again they will offer me a place to go to Hungary, this time for one and a half year. But I decline the opportunity and will come to regret it afterwards. I also apply for a Youth Ship program which is a program for East-Asian countries. Each year the program puts university students from various countries together on a ship and sails them to all the member countries, stopping at each one to promote peace and foster relationship. My application, however, comes to nothing. On Saturday 20 June 1992 we have a party again at the house of Coeď who is my senior both at the Montfort College and here at the Culạlongkaur University, or Chulalongkorn in English for that matter. He is now teaching Chemical Engineering at CU. This party is held annually for everyone who is both

related to MC and CU. Every year there is plenty of food and drink. Half of the men stay overnight. Half way into the party somebody sees the girls home because it is getting late. We carry on drinking, watch the videos, listen to music, or sleep in his room which is air-conditioned. The house is built of wood with a part of it over a large pond where fishes are bred for food. During the night if someone wants to throw up he can just open a lid in the wall, stick his head out outside and do it into the pond below. The fish will eat all that and later they too will be eaten. This is just what I do tonight. It has been two years since I lived in Budapest. Also this is Thailand where it is hot and humid, and what I drink is no vodka but whisky, and mixed with some carbonated drinks at that. This makes one get drunk easier. The following day is Sunday 21st and there is an Environment-related exhibition at the Queen Sirikit Convent Centre.

In July I could meet Mọ and Dēng the latter of whom I have not seen for many years, that is since we both entered a university. This is my year again the second time in a row, I have passed all the requirement for the BS at RU and have graduated since 15 May 1992. I know this on 13 August, but have preregistered for the next semester since 27 July just in case I did not graduate. It has taken me a long time, that is since 24 June 1985 when I first began studying at the university. August is really an exam month. I have two on Friday 14th, namely one for Power System I and another one for Control System Analysis II. The following day, that is Saturday 15th, I have an exam for German at the Goethe Institut.

In the Engineering we have apart from lectures laboratories for the various subjects. For these we have to write reports. The idea is for us to have a hand-on practice in what we have previously learnt in theory, and to be able to analyse the real results. But everyone and every group look at the reports written by students of the previous year. Some of us copies these verbatim, others do it more nobly but in essence still follow them. There is nothing one can do about this. One either does to get an A, or write one's own reports and do with a D. This semester I have three labs to do, namely Control System, Energy Conversion I and Power System II. In September I have all the exams, that is to say, the Control System II on the 22nd and the Power System II on the 29th. On 19th September alone I have exams for the Control System Lab, Energy Conversion I Lab, and the oral exam at the l'Alliance Française. There is another exam for the lab, that is the one for Electronic Device which is on 1st October. On the same day I move within the company from the Engineering Instruments Sales Section to the Business Development Department. My new job is to bid for the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's Waste Water Treatment projects, the overall value at this stage of which is approximately ฿5 billion. In October my French class resumes on the 3rd, I have a final exam for Microprocessor on the 6th

and a Test of English as a Foreign Language on the 24th. Nud̀i, Ron's secretary and my colleague, has lent me books for the TOEFL test, but I have been too busy with all the exams already mentioned to be able to read them. Moreover, my new position means a busier one and I have to examine all the quotations from manufacturers and dealers from all over the world. Our facsimile machine never stops, not even during the night. Every morning we find a long ribbon of the faxes that have come from overseas lying on the floor waiting for us. This is not to mention all the local dealers that we come into touch, as well as small shops that we need to look around our office in the China Town for things like a few trolleys.

I take the TOEFL test to help me in my profession, not to get into a university, but the results that come out are quite all right for I get a score of 647. The result for the Test of Written English where I have misjudged the time and failed to complete also is so bad as I thought, I get 4 out of 6. To obtain the scaled total score of TOEFL, the first step is to add together the scores of all the three sections. The second step is then to divide the sum by three, and then multiply the result obtained by ten. For example, my score for the first section was 59, for the second 68, and for the third 67. To turn this into the official score normally quoted, divide by three and then multiply by ten to obtain 647, or to be exact 646.66...rounded to the nearest integer. As another example, the total score for the exam I took was 65 for the first section, 68 for the second, and 67 for the third and last. Adding this up you get 200. Then according to the second step above you obtain 666.66666... *ad infinitum.* This has to be rounded into the nearest integer, that is 667. This I have to work out by myself because the organiser of the TOEFL does not make known the way they calculate the scores. On 1st November 1991 I begin my Japanese class.

What a bad day to start writing my first page of diary, Wednesday 30 March 1994. I really want to write everyday if I have time to. I expect it to be a relaxing activity to do. After all these failures in my life I feel like refreshing myself up a little bit and find something to do. But there is no need to panic, for I do not usually write a diary. This is something special already, and what is more half of it is lost in a flood. So to put it roughly you will only hear the first half of each day, that is the half the writing of which has not been dissolved in the water.

Today I wake up to my CD player as usual. I t take my bicycle to work and do not come home for lunch, which is unusual. It gets cloudy just before noon but never rains as far as I know. After my Chinese class in the evening I eat at the dormitory of CU, then go to meet my parents at my sister's place. My father still drives the small Dihatsu van.

The result of the exam to study the MBA program at TU has come out, and I have not passed. It is true there is no such thing as a free lunch. I had better not pass the exam than do pass it and find myself

studying very hard, only to become like some of the people whom I know who are studying or have studied there, to mention but a few Suriẏa and Denky. Oh! not that I have anything against them. I think they are nice folks. It is just that I think they are a little peculiar. I will never go so far as to say that I think they are inhuman in a way. If they are smart, well-organised, and perfect, then I guess that I may be noting but object-oriented. I am neither clever, I must admit, nor am I good at anything at all, as far as I can think of. I did not do well at the piano, did not get myself a UE from New Zealand, did not pass the CMU's medical faculty's entrance's test, failed to pass it again the following year, could not enter the medical faculty at CU, failed to get a place to study Electrical Engineering, had to study longer than others in Mineral Engineering, failed the Youth Ship Program's tests four times, and so on.

> When the step ahead seems all to me too far,
> When the gap that divides is that one of the farthest star,
> I have never doubt the value of the few good things that I have learnt
> and never think that I should regret the misfortune.
> For the few good experiences I have seen
> are more important than the money I have earned.

I will come to like, in nine years' time, the number 4, because it is the quickest way to draw a cross without lifting your pen. Christ dies so that directly reach God we may.

Thursday 31 March 1994 I bring lunch with me to the office of Telecom Asia, and find out that it is such a good thing to do. There are very few people around during lunch time and it makes me feel on air. The office is not cramped with people from three or four companies. Some faces of the people whom I consider bad are also not around. In the Telecom Asia office on the 17^{th} Floor where I am working now there are also employees of Anderson, Sinobrit and system programmers who are from Malaysia. In the afternoon after work I go to the office of the Polygram Design to pick up an IEEE Computer Society Letter. I walk back to TA office and meet Somjạy with this colleague. We talk at a small food shop nearby. At the Fortune Town I meet Nāṃ. He has been fired recently.

In Master of Business Administration you study among other things Micro- and Macro Economics, Accounting, Finances, Management and how to manage portfolios. All these profits, how to deal with people, how to close a sale and how to make something sound convincing without regards of what it really is. It is fine if you are a businessman by nature or experience and deal with your friends and the people you know for maximum profits for oneself. But when it comes to studying these things for a master degree or higher, it is a most wicked thing one can possible

do to his fellow men. He who does it intends harm and has no well intentions for other people. I am not exaggerating.

At this moment I am trying to read Mark Twains, higher mathematics, for example Real Analysis and Functional Analysis, languages, for example Chinese, Russian, Japanese, French, German, all the subjects mentioned in the last paragraph, and others. I wish I could produce something concrete and tangible out of what I have read too. Astronomy and music are the two things I used to love. I would like to start it all again. Friday 1st April, I take a sick leave and just go to the library at the American University Alumni. I think that it is a good thing to take sick leaves sometimes to have time for yourself. At the library I read some newspapers. There seem to be no job advertisements on it that I like. Some require that you are an MBA graduate. Others require UNIX and ISO-9000 knowledge. I read some magazines, for example the National Geographics, Art Reviews, The Chronicles and Virtual Realities. I have *klòaydaud́* (deep-fried battered banana) and *khậwmàodaud́* (fried and made from rice) for lunch and watch the exhibition to promote measures against a water crisis. Then I read some literatures and some of the books on management. I am determined to study the various subjects by myself. On Saturday I come to the British Council library only to find that it is closed. The security guard tells me that it will be open on the 5th April. I go to the River City Hotel to have a look at the Handicraft Fair and at the room where they monthly hold the auction. These auctions are for the porcelain and antiques. In fact they are going to have one this afternoon at 1:30 pm. I do not think I want to see it, so I come back to the TA office and there read some newspapers. Ben thinks that when you are an employer you are forever under the owner of the company, that is so long as you remain working with his company. 'No matter whether you become a manager and have a salary of ฿100,000 or more a month,' he used to say, 'The fact is that the company profits from what you do by the million'. On Sunday I stay all day in my room, just sleeping, reading books, and watch the BBC and Star TV. There are a few interesting program, for example the fashion show and a film about a werewolf teenage boy. I read some IEEE newsletters, books on finance, engineering and language. There are some documentary programmes on the BBC about drug abuses in the Great Britain. It is going from bad to worse. Many children use drug, even a child of only ten.

The video player is out of order again. I do not know what is wrong with it. I want to learn how to do everything myself, including repairing videos. I will learn how to design electrical and electronic appliances when I have the time. I have begun to write and do things with my left hand instead of my right hand as I usually did. It is difficult. But who know, it might come into handy one day.

It is not Monday again already! My boss tells me in the morning that I will lower the morale of my colleagues by doing other things during

working hours, 4th April 1994. I guess I have spoken too much again, as usual. I have told every one of my friends that I am trying to move to the engineering section. Now I find myself in an uneasy situation. What if they never let me move? I do not want to work as a security officer anymore because there is nothing more that I could learn. I want to do some other things where I can grow as a person. As there is no place for me to move to within the company, I want to resign. It is never in my mind to behave badly in order to be fired and entitled to a three-month compensation package. It is not more money that I want but something more worthwhile to do. I may be stupid to resign before I can find a new job, but anyway I have made up my mind. I hand in the resignation letter and say that I will carry on doing the job as usual in the mean time. In my heart I know full well that I will have to be without a job for a while yet. To make things worse, this is also a summer holiday and the time when new graduates are looking for job.

I take the Tuesday off to look for a job. I may have to do with a non-engineering one as far as I could tell. In the morning I ask at NECTEC about the result of my earlier application. I apply to Sạengpradíṣṭha and Jasmine. I feel that I had been through many bad managements, for example Suriẏa, Bidakṣa, Vijaoẏa and Ronald. I never think that it could have been me all the while who are rebellious. I am determined, if ever I could come to be in the management, that I will be more compassionate than they are. People are more important than money. Some managers only save their own skin and never think about other people. Yet some have bad manner and no good quality whatever. I also go to the Lhaksĭ Tower to inquire after a job.

At the Polygram Design office there is one letter for me. Ad, Càroeẏ and Déẹj are here. Déẹj drives me to Cuk's house. We meet among other people there Ben, Cuk, Đuc and A. Ben suggests that we go to the Dream World together tomorrow. No one can come, Cuk has two students to teach.

Then we leave for Daḅ Leṇ. I stay at the same room that I used to say, writing up until 1:30 am before going to bed. There are many interesting books in the room where I sleep. For example, music books and scores, the Lord of the Ring, Dictionary of Music and the Book on Friendship from Charlotte, an American whom I met a few years ago.

I wake up with Ben calling on the phone, Wednesday 6th April. It is a holiday today, the Cakrị Day. We break our fast and then go out to the Dream World in his Mercedes. We pick up Sun at her place, which is not a kilometre away. They are building something in front of her house, and she complains. Ben says that he want to fight for her on this matter, and that he enjoys doing something like this. He could not possibly have meant it, for he never is serious unless a thing affects him in some way.

We go by the express way. The Dream World is in Glọng Sạm in the northern part of Bangkok. We arrive there around 9:30 am, but the opening time turns out to be 10:30. Ben pays for our tickets. This is a treat for his nephew Tavan, Cȧroey's son. We get inside, walk a little, and then wait while Ben and Tavȧn go together on the Hanging Coaster. It is a good experience to come here only because we come with Ben. I would probably not want to come here on my own. I think the quality of things here is somewhat mediocre. It is hot when we come back. We drop Dẹ́j at the Central Plaza Hotel. He is going to Lạ́dkraḅang. Ben drops me off at the Robinson Department Store, Sukhumvid, to buy food for the party. He gives each Sun and me ฿100 each. I buy *kãi daud́* (deep-fried chicken), *tàohù daud́* (fried bean-curd), *phuak daud́* (deep-fried taro), *thŭaá̧eng daud́* (deep-fried kidney-bean), *kraḅaung daud́* (deep-fried battered wax gourd) and *daud́man plạkrạy* (deep-fried spotted featherback, a freshwater fish). Then I walk to Cuk's place where people are singing and rehearsing. Here I prepare the food by arranging them into plates. Then I leave the place. The day has been long, but it has been a nice day. I am glad to be able to get out of my clothes to have a hot shower at the end of it. The Bangkok Music Society are going to Singapore on the 9th of this month. They are going to watch the *Les Misérables* there. Then they will go further to Australia and will come back on 17th April.

Today, Thursday 7th April, I contact Mhụ of Thai Syndicate Financial about the 300 units of TA stock that belong to Pūk. I manage to buy them but at a high price. The value of the stock is going up. I buy them for the port of of Yaovȧlakṣṇa whose sister, Koḥ, is working at Sinobrit as a secretary of Bq.angwaur who is the data centre manager there. The stock turns out to be a sham. In 1997 we have a financial crisis, and thereafter their value drops so low you would never believe.

In the afternoon I think it is Ayjàlịon the 21st floor who phones. I come up and talk with her about the new person who will work in the security section. Later Jollád̨a or Ọ́ comes down to the 17th floor and I teach her Security Systems. She went to the US after having finished her M3. There she studied in high school, then did a bachelor degree in Computer Science and after that an MBA. She lived in Connecticut. I try to teach her everything possible in the limited time. Both her and Pūk become a successful security officer and remain with the company for many years.

I go to Bouygues-Thai on Friday 8th April 1994 to apply for a job. It is at Muangdaung Dhạnị. I go there by bus and take a motorcycle into the office. While waiting for it to open again in the afternoon, I eat my sandwiches near a big lake there. It is very hot. There is some fishing going on at the residence area near the office. There are already many buildings here. High buildings stand in rows. But unlike those I had seen

in Budapest, these are beautiful. They are designed and constructed by Western-European companies, and look more like some works of art than a mere building. After having written the application form, I walk back to the main road and catch a bus to go to the Cȧtucakr Park. Next, I apply at UCOM.

The nex day, 9th April, I meet Koḅ by appointment at about 11 am at the Fortune Town to hand her the cheque for the TA stock I bought. She then gives me a lift to the World Trade Centre where I apply for an electrical engineering position. After that I go to the British Council library. I am at CU in the evening. There is no one in the room of the Electrical Engineering Club except Rick and Śakd́xi. We talk for a while, and I teach both English through my talk. We dine at the university's dormitory, and then Rick gives me a lift home. I want to know more about the English language. There are many more things to learn, read and teach. I want to write books. It is better to do so when you are not working, and I will start planning to write some books now. Writing is self-studying. You read, then you write some of the material down, turn them over in your mind, and then write your own book. There is also this problem about copyrights, and you need to protect yourself lest you can not use your own ideas later without quoting somebody else's name.

Sunday 10 April, I come to CU hoping that there will be someone at the fencing club, but disappointed when I find that there is nobody here. So I can not *goang blaung* (spin the sticks) like I did here yesterday. After having waited here a little, I go back and spend some time at the TA office. Then I go to the apartment at the Śirirạj Hospital to fetch some of the things that I need, which include the books that I will use to teach Ọ. On my way back I meet Yhị whom I have not seen for such a long time. We talk and he tells me that Ace has now a child of nearly one. What a good news to hear. I do hope that she wrote to me sometimes. Life is so short. Why can we not talk to each other. I have done my best when I told her that I wanted to marry her but she has chosen her own way, which is fair enough. But I love her and shall never be angry with her, so why this absolute silence on her part I never could understand. I give my home address to Yhị in case he sees her again and in case she has somehow lost my address. He is travelling to China, and after that to Singapore.

How did you come to leave me
I will never know.
Your love for me you let me see,
Tenderness for me you show.

I only know that I love you
And I will do it I think always.
It make no difference what you think or do
You are now far, far away.

That is not all of it, but the rest is dissolved, so this is your day and not mine.

On 11 April 1994 I take a leave again when I go to the Thai Com satellite station to apply for a job. I talk with Choen, my junior at RU where she majored in English at the Humanity Department. I meet Ẹk who is from EE'73, CU, in front of the satellite station. Then I come to MBK to apply at Ẹkàjạti on the 11th Floor. After all this I sit down to do my homework at the Fine Art Department, and then go to my Chinese class.

To a thai who lives in Bangkok the sea comprises three different places, that is to say, the part of the coast along Gulf of Thailand south-east of the city, the same from south-west of the city all the way down south until one reaches the border with Malaysia, and the third and last that part of the coast along the Andaman sea on the left-hand side of the peninsula.

The land bordering the mouth of Càobrayạ River south of Bangkok is sprawled with prawn farms. These have concrete tanks in which prawns are bred and raised. The male and female prawns are put together in a tank for the breeding. After the latter have done laying eggs they and the males are taken away, otherwise they will devour up all the young prawns. Once these small prawns has grown up to a reasonable size, they are transfered to a pond where *plạjàun*s (silver sillago) are also raised. The two are kept in the same pond for the purpose of recycling the water, so that the pond needs no cleanings. But they must be kept separated from each other by nylon nets to prevent the fish from the prawns. This done, prawns are ready to be sold when they are seven months old.

There is a market at Pạknāṃ in Sàmudprạkạr where one can buy all the ingredients to make sea dishes like *pōtạek*, which is a sour and spicy soup made from several fish and other creatures from the sea. The boat on which the seamen go out to catch sea fish is called the *Tangkẹ* boat. People whose backyard borders a canal often have a *yạu* for catching fish. It is a large square net the four corners of which are tied by a long string to the end of the pole which makes up a lever that can be lowered and raised in order to catch fish from the canal.

Fish farms, for example those which raises *sàlid́*s, cut grass and throw it into the ponds where the fish are. Lichens will form on the leaves, which will float up creating a bog and provide us with excellent food for the fish. The water must be regularly changed. This is done with the help of *rahad́vid́nāṃ*, or simply *rahad́*, an irrigation conveyor belt, formerly wind-powered but now driven by a motor, which conveys water from one pond to another.

There are also crab farms, for example those at Sạkhlạ, Muang, Sàmudrprạkạr, respectively ward (taṃbol), district (aṃbhọe) and province

(cangvhaḍ). Here small crabs weighing between 0.3 and 1 kilogrammes are bought from the market and put in a pond Being fed with small fishes two times a day, with water changed daily, they are ready to be sold back to the market after 15 to 20 days. Instead of buying young crabs, baby crabs can be bred and raised.

The name of King Rama I or Buddhàyaudfạ̄ (20 March 1736 – 1809) was Daungḍùang.† During the reign of King Tạksin the Great a riot broke out when he became king on 6^{th} April 1782 . As for Tạksin, he was butchered I know not by whom. Those who did know either had not lived long enough to tell the tale or would not let on. Rama I founded Krungdẹb (Bạngkauk or Bangkok) on 21 April 1782, this being the tenth of the first month according to the Thai calendar, and moved the capital here from Donḅurị. Bạngkauk's full name is *Krungdẹbmáhạnàgaur ḅàuvaurratànàkọsindŕa màhindàrạyudhàyạmàhạḍílokbhob nobàratnrạjàdhạnịburịromỳa uḍomrạjànivẹśnamàhạsàthạn à maurbimạn àvàtạrsàthit sakkàdattiyàviṣàṇukarrmprasiddhi.* In the reign of King Rama IV the part *ḅàuvaurratànàkọsindŕa* was changed into *àmaurratànàkọsindŕa*. Rama I restored in 1782 the Bọdhạrạm temple which was built since the Àyudhàyạ period, and has it renamed into the Jẹtubol Vimolmangglạvạs temple. Rama III restored the temple and had the various lore's of the country inscribe on marble slabs placed inside the temple, for example those on Buddhism, history of the temple, literature, medicine, proverbs, and traditions, so much so that it is known as the country's first university. Among these fields of learning is that of the tradition massage, of which the temple boasts the country's best. Rama IV changed the name into the Jẹtubon Vimolmanggàlạrạm. But people call it the *Bọḍhi* temple and it is generally known as his temple. Instead of a moat the river Càobrayạ surrounds the royal palace and the inner city on the west while on the east of it is the Lhauḍ canal. The city is shaped like an oblong leaf. Then another canal, that is the Ọ̈ngwặ̈ng or Bạnglaṃbhụ Canal, was dug to the east of this canal which surrounds the new Chinatown Saṃbeng, Saojingjạ̄ (the Grand Swing Poles) and the *Brạhm*'s (Brahmin) temples. Both the canal and the new city wall and forts were built by around 5,000 Laos from Viangcandŕa. The Grand Palace was completed in 1785. The Brakàew Mauràkot (Brabuddhàmàhạmàṇịratànàpàṭimạkaur or the Emerald Buddha) is the Buddha image that was brought in 1769 to Dhonḅurị from Viangcandŕa by Lhoang Yokraḅatr, who later became King Rama I. It was installed in the Śrịratànàśạsàḍạrạm (or Brakàew) Temple in 1783. The Swinging Poles was used in the Trịyampàvạy (Lọ̄jingjạ̄) Ceremony since 1784, to ask the Hindu gods to make the city

† *cf Rattanakosin bicentennial. An illustrated book on historical events.* (Nhangsụe juḍ bhạb krung Ratànàkọsindŕa saung rāuy pị) Kurusapha Business Organisation (Ongġakạrgạ̄ khaung Gurusàbhạ) 1982.

sacred and secure. Rama I canonised the Buddhist Scripture in 1789 and edited in 1804 the laws into the *Trạsạmd́oang* (*lit* three-stamp) Law, the three stamps being Bọakàèw, Gojàsiḥa and Rạjàsiḥa. He also wrote Rạmàkiyrti, Nirạś Dàḍindạeng and Inhao. Kọsạdhibàd́ị or Braglang Hon lived during his reign who wrote the *lilit* Bàyuhàyạtrạbejrboang, the *ḅodmàhọrị* Kạkị, the Kumạr and Madrị *kaṇḍa* (part) of the *rà yyạw* Màhạjàti, Rạjạdhirạj, and Sạmkōk. The last one is the Chinese historical story Sān Guó or the Three Kingdoms which is the story of the three kingdoms, namely Wèi (220 – 265), Shǔ Hàn (221 – 263), and Wú (222 – 280).

In 1785 there was the *songgrạm 9 dab* (nine-army war) when Pad́ung, the king of Burma and son of King Àlaungbrayạ who burnt Àyuddhàyạ, came to attack Sàyạm (Siam) with his nine armies of 144,000 men, and in 1786 the battles at Dà Dind́ạeng – Sạmsoḅ. Both times Bạ̀uvaur Suràsinghànạd (Bụymạ, 1743 – 1803) who drove them back. He captured Pattạnị in the south and transferred the confiscated the main cannon in a junk to be kept in Bangkok. It is now in front of the Ministry of Defence. He helped Kạvila, who was sent by Rama I to rule Jiangmhăị in the north, drive away the Burmese, and thereafter took the Sihinġa Buddha image back to Krungdẹb. In 1787 Rama I laid siege on Dàvạy, a town which belonged to the warmonger neighbour of Sàyạm (Siam), Burma, but he came back without having captured that city. But Dàvạy, Marid́ and Tanạwśrị presented themselves to Siam in 1791.

In 1782 Ong Jiangsụe fled from the rebels in Saigon to Siam. He escaped back to Cochin-China, defeated the rebels and installed himself as the Emperor Gialong of Vietnam. Following the fall fo Saigon (Zàingàun) in 1782, a riot broke of in Khàmẹr (Khmer), whereby King Nạrạyṇarạ̀jạ fled with his family to Sàyạm. His son, Nakwongwẹng, was still ten. Rama I sent Abhaybhụ̀bẹśr to rule that country, and then in 1794 Nakwongwẹng who became King Nạrạyṇarạmạdhibàud́ị. To rule Viangcandṅa he sent Nandàsẹn, and then Indàvongśxa. After the latter died in 1804 he sends Ànuvongśxa. Before he died he gave the throne to his son Bạ̀uvaursàthạnmonggol whose name was Chim (24 Feb. 1767 – 1824) the coronation ceremony of whom began seven days after his ascension to the throne and lasted for another seven days during the period of which no alcoholic drinks were to be sold. In 1810 Pad́ung attacked and captured many southern towns which were under Siam, but was later driven back. After his death in 1819 his son Cingkụcạ came to power who made preparations in order to attack Siam again but never did. Ỵoan (Vietnam) wanted to have the town Phaidàmạś back and was granted. Khmer became divided into two sides, one under King Udaiyrạ̀jạ who sided with Vietnam and his brother Upàyọrạj (*nakwongġa* Sàngoan) who sided with Siam. Rama II sent to mediate between these two brothers

Yomàraj, who burnt Bànombey, Krabonglhoang and Bandaybejr before returning with *nakwongga* Dòang, *nakwongga* Ìm and *nakwongga* Sàngoan. Vietnam sided with Khmer which thereafter estranged itself from Siam. Rama II canonised the Buddhist prayers and translated them into Thai from Pali. He built the new town Nàgaurkhŭankhandha at Paklad on the mouth of the Càobraya River, and added three more forts to the existing fourth which was built by Rama I. Manned by Mon migrants, the town was ruled by Sàmingdaumà after its completion in 1815. Three white elephants were presented to the king, namely Sàvètr Kuyjaur from Bodhisatva in 1812, Sàvètr Aiyàra from Jiangmhăi, and Sàvètr Kojàlakshna from Nàn in 1817. The national flag of Siam became a white elephant in a *cakr* (disc-shaped weapon) on red. It is used as the Elephant Jack in the royal trading ships. In 1812 Rama II brought the Busàyàratna from Campàsakdxi to Bangkauk and installed it in the *ubosoth* of Śrìratànàśàsàdaram first, before moving it to the Suralaiybiman Tower in the Cakràbarrdibiman Palace. In 1817 he started the annual ceremony for the Visakhà day which falls on the full-moon day of the sixth lunar month, the day that marks Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. Gialong died in 1819 and Minmang became the new emperor of Vietnam. Rama II restored the Càeng Temple and renamed it the Àrunràjàdharam Temple, the name which remained in use until Rama IV's reign when it was changed into Àrunràjàvàràram. This temple was in the royal ground during the time of King Taksin, but it became the temple of Rama II because of the extensive restorative works carried out during his reign. The 82-metre high big *prangga* (Khmer-styled pagoda) we see now was planned towards the end of his reign and the foundation dug. It was built by Rama III and completed by Rama IV. The mould for the Buddha image here was done by King Rama II himself. In 1820 Carlos Manuel de Silveira by the Portuguese Governor of Macao to Siam to build ships. An American businessman, Captain Hale, in 1821 came here and traded 500 guns with sugar. He was appointed Loang Bhakdìràjà *kaptan* (captain). The following year John Crawfurd was sent here by the Marquess of Hastings who was the Governor General of India. For various reasons, for example his manner not being considered well enough, his navigational surveying of the rivers and, and this is perhaps the worst, the fact that two interpreters were used, that is one between English and Malay and the other Malay and Thai, the negotiation proved a failure. They should have sent in his place a merchant! Rama II likes literature and his reign marks the blooming period of this branch of art. He himself is an excellent poet who wrote among other things the Inhao, Gàvì, Kraidaung, Ràmàkiarti and Sangkhdaung. He also played the *zau sam say* (three-stringed fiddle), and had composed songs for it among which are the Bulhan Lauylùan or

Ḅulhan Lùanlauyfạ̄, and the Drongbrasuḅin or Sarrsroeẏbracandṙa song. In a way his reign is like the Elizabethan English because Sundaurbhṳ̀ (1787 – 1855, b. 26 June) is to a Thai similar to what Shakespeare is to the English or Cervantes the Italians. He wrote *Bra Abhaymāṇi* in verses (nidạn gaṃklaun), as usually is the case with all his other works. Khun Jāng – Khun Phạen was another masterpiece which he shares the credit of writing with Rama II and III. The reign of Rama II also produces the very fine quality *ḅeẏcārongġa* (five-coloured china). The Siamese twins were born in 1811 in Sàmudrsonggrạm whose side of the body is connected with the other's from chest to abdomen. A Scotch merchant bought them from their mother when they were 18, and put them on show in a circus in the US. Each married a different wife. Both settled and lived in the US until their death on 17 January 1874.

King Rama III (Nàngklào, 31 Mar. 1787 – 1851) came to the throne in 1824 after his father, Rama II, died from a serious illness that lasted for eight days. In the same year the United Kingdom sought the alliance from Siam in their attack on Burma. Subsequently three troops were sent, namely those under Bibaḍhkọṣạ, Màhạyọdhạ and Surāṣẹṇạ. In 1825 envoy and presents were sent to the emperor of China. On 16 December 1825, Captain Henry Burney, a British official at Penang who could speak Thai, conversed with Rama III. Negotiations followed which resulted in the first treaty of friendship and commerce between Siam and a European country, which was signed on 20 June 1826. It was made in four languages, that is English, Malay, Portuguese and Thai. Ȧnuvongśxa of Laos rebelled against Ḅạngkauk's rule, which led to his death while in imprisonment following his loss in the battles of 1827. After that, Rama III ordered more forts to be built at Sàmudrprạkạr, namely Pịkkạ, Sụazàunleḅ, Trịbejr and Vijiarjọ́ḍok. His brother, Prince Mongkuḍ or Càofạ̄ Mongkuḍ (18 Oct. 1804 – 1 Oct. 1868), was appointed the abbot of the Ḅāṷvaurniveṣ́ Temple in 1837. He created a new sect of Buddhism, the Dharrmāyutikā.nikạyā. Andrew Jackson, the president of the US, sent Edmund Roberts to negotiate a trade treaty. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce was concluded with no difficulty since the US demanded no extraterritorial rights. It was signed on 20 March 1832.

The trade between China and Siam prospered in this reign, and Rama III built two pagodas sitting on top of a model of the trading junk in the Yạnnạvạ temple near the present Sạdhaur pier. Dan Beach Bradley, an American MD and member of the Protestant board of mission ABCFM, came to Siam in 1836 to spread the Words. He brought with him the vaccines for cholera and smallpox, and the printing press which produced a book in Siam for the first time on 3rd June 1836. By 1839 Rama III was abreast with the technology, for he ordered the first governmental documents in Siam, namely the 9,000 copies of the notice to prohibit

the consuming of opium. In 1841 Bradley started making moulds for their own types, and the first western calendar in Thai was printed in force the following year. The first Thai types ever made were designed in Burma, casted in India, and used for printing the book on the Thai grammar by James Low† which was printed in Calcutta in 1828. The book had been written since 1822, but presumably had to wait for the types to be casted. That was time when we had the luxury of neither the computer nor Knuth's TEX. The Codmhayhetu Ywăng Sàn or the Bangkok Reader which was started by Bradley in 1835 was short-lived and had to go out of print in less than one year because nobody read them. With an admirable perseverance he resume printing it again in 1864 under the same name, and this time it lasted over three years. The monk Càofā Mongkud, knowing is market better, set up his own printing press and operated it by monks of the Bảuvaurnivés Temple to produce the *patimokkha*, the prayer verse previously etched into *nhangsue baila* (inscription on palm-leaves).

During the reign of Rama III, Càofā Mongkud went from place to place on his *pèlerinage* when he discovered many historical things, for example the stone with the inscriptions made under King Ramgamhaeng of Sukhoday and the monumental *Pathomcedíya* pagoda. One may well understand these pilgrimages to deserted places, since he was the brother of a different mother to the king and was next to the throne. And after the king died in 1851 he became King Rama IV, and is also known as King Mongkud or Bra Caumklào. He had been a monk 27 years, reigned another 18 and had 82 children. Fluent in Pali and knowing Latin and English well, he was perhaps the only King in Asia during his time who could keep correspondence in English with the kings and head of states in the west. He was also an astronomer and could calculate the solar eclipse. On his coronation day on 15 May 1851 he showed his modern attitude because all the foreign representatives who came from Holland, England, Malaysia, Portugal and the US were standing on their feet instead of sitting on the floor like the Siamese. Upon his insistence, his brother Cudamani became the second king of the kingdom who was crowned on 25 May 1851. Pinklào employed a retired army officer from England, Thomas George Knox who came to Siam in 1831, to train the palace soldiers. He translated a book on big guns' techniques into Thai in 1804 and ordered Śrisuriyavongśxa to build steamships. Bra Caumklào sent envoys to present the emperor of China with gifts on 3rd July 1851, and the other and last time in 1852. He ordered an attack on Jiangtung twice, once in 1852 and then the second and last time in 1855. After that there were to be no more battles with that country until it was taken by the British in 1885. Sir John Bowring who was the Governor

† Could be *Lowe*, *Lowell*, *etc.*

of Hongkong came to Siam under Queen Victoria's command. He came in the ship *Rattler* and met Mongkuḍ on 16 April 1855 and Pĭnklào privately later. The Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between the United Kingdom and Siam was signed two days later. In the same year Mongkuḍ (Mongkut) the picture of a white elephant, side-view and facing left, on a red background as the national flag, and the name of the country became officially 'Siam'. He visioned a god who has helped protect the country, and had Pradíṣṭha Vạurảkạr make a mould and cast the image of this imagined deity in solid gold eight inches high, and give him the name of Bra Sảyạmdẹvạdhirạj. Then he installed this golden god inside the *bra dịnàng* (palace) Drongdharrm which was within the group of Buddhảmondiar palaces. Later Rama V pulled down all these palaces and moved this god to the Bradìnàng Baiśạldakṣiṇ where it remains until this day.

Townsend Harris, who was the American Consul-General to Japan, came to Siam on 21 April 1856 while Franklin Pierce was the president of the US. Again he met the first king first, and later the second. And again the negotiation succeeded and a treaty was signed on 29 May 1856 according to the terms of which the setting up of the American Consulate in Siam had been decided.. Stephen Mattoon became the first Consul who had lived in this country for close to ten years and spoke Thai well.

Rama IV wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865, president of the US 1861 – 1865), offering to send over a pair of elephants to the US. But the timing was not the best, for it was then in the middle of the industrial revolution and his letter must have seemed untimely at the best and at the worst preposterous. He replied,

> I appreciate most highly Your Majesty's tender of good offices in forwarding to this Government a stock from which a supply of elephants might be raised on our own soil. This Government should not hesitate to avail itself of so generous an offer if the object was one which could be made practically useful in the present condition of the United States.
>
> Our political jurisdiction, however, does not reach a latitude so low as to farm the multiplication of the elephant, and stem on land as well as on water, has been our best and most efficient agent of transportation in internal commerce.

There was a time when steam was thought to be efficient.

In 1849 he bought a lithographic press from the US to print books on Buddhism, and in 1858 the coin-stamping machine made by Taylor, Birmingham, UK. The Royal Mint, *rọngkraṣạpṇa* (mint) Siddhikạr. was completed and running in 1860. Before this the money used was in the form of *ngoen boḍ́ḍòang* (silver bullet money) and *ngoen rhịyṵ nok* (Mexican coins with the royal stamps on the back). The first *rhịyṵkảṣạpṇa*

(minted coin) or *ngoen pạe* came out in 1860, which are one *ḅạd*, one *sảlueng*, two *sảlueng*, one *fūang*. In 1862 the cowries were replaced by tin coins, which are called *aṭh* and *sọlos*.. Gold coins were stamped in 1863 which are called *Doś*, *Biś* and *Baśảd́uengśa*, and copper coins in 1865 called *Zịk* and *Sìaw*.

The *Rạjảkiccạnubẹkṣạ* (royal gazette) newsletter was first printed in 1858 which lasted until this day. On 28 July 1857 Montrị Suriyảvongśxi, Sarrbẹdh Bhakd́ị and Mondiar Bidakṣ paid a homage to Queen Victoria. Rạjọday's *A Journey to London* was the first book to be copyrighted here. The French Bishop Pallegoix brought photography, after which Krasạpảnảkickọśol (Mhọd́ Ảmạtảyảkul) became the first photographer. The ancient ploughing ceremony *Bụejmonggol* was revived in 1858. Napoléon III (Charles Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, 1808 – 1873) sent M. de Montigny to Siam in 1856. During 1859 – 1867 is troop captured the Cochin-China. Then Śrịbibaḍhṅa, Vaiyảvaurảnạth and Ṇảrongġavijit were sent as envoys to him in France. For this purpose a French warship picked them up on 22 March 1860 and brought them back some twenty months later, on 10 December 1861. At this time there are no streets or roads. Foreign diplomats said that they missed their civilisation, and so comply with the request Rama IV did for he built the Cảroeỵkrung Road in 1861. Outward bound from the second moat it was built by Śrịsuriyảvongśxa and Indảrạdhiḅảd́ị from the Sạmyaud́ Gate to the Tok Road, while inward bound by Yomảrạj (Gruḍ) and Bromhḅảurirakṣa from the same to Sảnạmjay in the inner city. Therefore this road runs a long stretch along the eastern banks of the Càobrayạ River, a truly lovely I would imagine at the time it was built. The Portugal Embassy is here, the first one as such in Siam. In 1863 another street was built, that is the Ḅaṃrungmuang Road from Sảnạmjaiy to the Swing Pole, and in 1864 another, the Fùangnảgaur Road from Sĭkāk Brayạśrị to the Swing Pole. These last two roads are not very long. The original purpose of these two roads was as an access to the Brahmin village and the Swing Pole. The third moat was dug, the Phảd́ung Krungkảṣẹm Canal. By 1980, more than a century after it was built, this canal had become polluted and stank so badly.that you would not have wanted to walk along it. During the 1990s, however, people became more environmental conscious, and by the turn of the millennium it had been so much cleaner that fish were coming back. Now the canal has plenty of them and seems at long last like a decent canal

Pĭnklào had been chronically ill for five years and he died on 7th January 1865. The British Borneo in 1864 began exporting the timber from the north. The logs were floated down the Ping River that merges with the Vang, Yom and Nận to become the Càobrayạ which goes out to the sea at Sảmudrprạkạr, just south of Ḅạngkauk. My parents in Jiangmhăị still remember the time when the river was covered with the

floating teak logs. Workers would run around on top of these, steering them. In 1866 Rama IV built a lighthouse at the mouth of the Càobrayạ River. Khroa Inkhộng (In), who was from Bạng Cạn, Bejrbụrị, was responsible for most of the mural paintings done during this reign, for example the *ubọsoth* of the Bảụromnivạs, Bảụvaurniveṣ́ Vihạr and Śrị RatànàŚạsd́ạrạm temples in Bangkok, and that of the Màhạsàmàṇạcạr Temple, Bejrbụrị. His painting at this temple in Bejrbụrị shows the Pàṭhom Cẹd́iỵa pagoda the restoration works of which began in 1853 and was completed during the reign of Rama VI. Some of his paintings also depict the imagined western world. Buḍhạcạrỵa (Tọ, 17 Apr. 1788 – 22 Jun. 1872) was an important monk who is wise and much respected. He was also a great teacher, and many of his students passed the *pàriỵy ẹk* (top-level exam for the monks in Pali translation). After his death the miniature Buddha images casted by him became prized collection items some of which are very highly priced to this day. From his own calculation he concluded correctly that there would be a total eclipse of the sun on 18 August 1868 at Vhàkạu in Pracoaḅgirịkhandha, and he invited Sir Harry Ord the Governor of Singapore to come and observe this rare natural occurrence with him. From 30 August until 23 September 1868 he was seriously ill from Malaria, and passed away on 1st October.

King Rama V (Màạ Culạlongkaurṇa, 20 Sep. 1853 – 23 Oct. 1910) had many wives. He had 77 children. He was 16 when he ascended the throne on 11 November 1868, and Ḅàrommàhạ Śrịsuriyàvongśxa (Jòang Ḅunnạg) became the Regent until his second coronation ceremony on 16 October 1873. The Rạjàḅàubidh was built in 1870 as the his royal temple. In the same year he visited Singapore and Java, and the following year India and Burma. Starting off in 1868 as a unit of 24 *màhạd́lek* body-guards, the Royal Guard was developed into the much larger *Màhạd́lek Rajàvallobh Rakṣạbrawongġa* which comprises squadrons and regiments, and equipped with modern weaponry. In 1871 he founded the Màhạd́lek Officer School, which later became the Soankulhaḅ Palace School. One of his wives, Śrịbajàrindrạ, founded the Rạjinị School in 1940. The Assumption College was founded in 1885 , the Joseph Convent College in 1907, and the Ḅaṃrungviją School in 1899.

The *sàtạngġa* ($^1/_{100}$ of a bạd) was created as a new monetary unit the coin of which is made of copper and has a hole in the middle. The *aṭhkraḍạṣ* (banknotes) were also produced, but were soon discontinued until replaced by the *dhànàḅatr* (banknotes), in 1902, which comes in five different denominations, namely 5, 10, 20, 100 and 1,000. Màhiśàrà Rạjàhàṛueday set up the Buggàlabhỵa, a new commercial bank. It was later registered as a company, the Sàyạm Kammạcol (Siam Commercial)

Bank, in 1906, which became the Daiybạṇijỳa in 1939. Rama V abolished slavery gradually (1888 – 1908), thus causing no bloodshed. The first telegraph line was kicked off in 1875 between Bạngkauk and the lighthouse at the Càobrayạ estuary in Sȧmudprạkạr. In 1878 the second line was laid which connected Bangkok with Bạngpawin and Ȧyudhȧỳạ. The first hospital to be set up by the government was the Vanglhang Hospital that borders the Bạngkauk Nāuy in Dhonbụrị (1886). Its name was later changed into 'Śirirạj' in remembrance of Śirirạj Kȧkudhȧbhaṇḍa, one of the king's son who died at the time of its construction. After the cremation, the king gave all the construction materials from the funeral pavilion to be used for building the hospital, which was opened on 26 April 1888. Rama V was contemporary of Queen Victorian and the Industrial Revolution in the UK. Therefore he probably have seen the canals in Manchester and other cities in England at their best, for he created for his country in 1882 the Canal Department. The furthermost part in the Gulf of Thailand is a bay shaped like a square the side of which is approximately 100 kilometres. The shore line on the far side of this bay has four estuaries, namely from left to right Mậe Klaung, Dậcịn, Càobrayạ and Nȧgaurnạyok (now Bạng Pakong). Between Mậeklaung and Dậcịn and moving inland are connected by two canals, namely Sunakhtaun and Ḍaṃnoensȧ́doak. Likewise between Dậcịn and Càobrayạ there are Mȧhạjaiyjolȧmạrk, Bhạṣịcạroeỵ, Mȧhạsȧvasḍ́xi, Brarạ̈jạbhimol and Brayạbarrṛ̣ue; and between Càobrayạ and Nȧgaurnạyok are Saṃrọg, Praveśńaburịromỳa, Sạensạeb and Rangsit.

The Postal Department was set up in 1883. The electricity was first used in 1880 by the army and, by the king's command, the palace. The Siam Electricity in 1898 became the sole supplier of the electricity in Bangkok. Surȧśakḍ́xi Montrị fought and defeated the Chinese Hậu who plundered the people in the north during 1885 – 1888.

The means of transportation at this point are the *kvian* (buffalo carts) in the country, the *roth lạk* (rickshaw) brought in from China, and the *roth mā* (horse-drawn carriage) from the west. The word 'rickshaw' comes from the Japanese *jinrikusha* which means a man-powered carriage. The tram came in 1887. First the carriage was drawn by horses and then later it was electrically powered.

Rama V created the *Yuddhȧnạdhikạr* (defence) Department, and he became the *caumbol* (Field Marshal). Many of those who held this position later misused their power, whereby much bloodshed resulted until it was abolished in the late 20th century. As for the defence department, it later turned into the Kȧlạhọm Ministry. He also formed the Cadet School in 1887, which became the *Sȧrạyromỳa* Military School and then later the Nạyrāuy Dȧhạrbọk School. The Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign in 1887 saw Dẹvȧvongśxavȧrọpȧkạr celebrating amidst all the British. Since 1885 he had become the first Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In 1892 all the ministries numbered twelve in total and the provincial administration changed in such a way that the kingdom was divided into *monṭol* (prefecture), *cangvhad́* (province), *aṃbhọe* (district), *taṃbol* (ward), and *mhŭb̀ạn* (village). Thai words never change when they become plural, therefore 'Taṃbol' may be either singular or plural depending on the context, while its English equivalent Tambol, In 1891 the Department of Rạjàlọhàkic (metallurgy) and Bhụmividàyạ (geography) was formed which later became Lọhàkic and then Drabàyạkaurdhaurâṇị The first tin dredger in Siam was operated by the company Dùnggạ Harbour with Edvard T Mile as its captain.

If we look at the reign of Rama IV (1851 – 1868) and that of Napoleon III (1852 – 1870), we will see that they coincide nearly perfectly with each other. In that era when both the industrial revolutions and the democracy were in force while the dwindling number of the reigning monarchs has nearly reach the critical stage, those with the absolute power in their hands tend to be more compassionate to each other than earlier on in history. This follows from the simple rule of thumb of the inverse proportionality between the density and kindness. It is the same rule that makes people who live in the city seem so unkind to each other by the yard stick of country folks. Moreover, Rama IV knew Latin, and that goes a long way towards winning the heart of any French, the French language being the direct descendant of the *Latin vulgaire* of the common people. Rama V was less lucky than his father. For one thing, most of his reigning life (1868 – 1910) was contemporary with the Third Republique (1871 – 1940). Also, linguistically he must have been less able compared with his father, in the eyes of the French at least. The closest person he could pair with among all the rulers of Europe was the probably the Nicolus II (1868 – 1918), the emperor of Russia (1894 – 1917). He visited Europe in 1897 and 1907 when he appeared in a picture together with Nicolus II, perhaps partly for the political reason related to the problem of colonisations. Free people who are poor could become desperate and dangerous, for example Germany after World War I when Hitler gained power, and Poland in 1990 when in Warsaw I was robbed of all my belongings. This was also the same with the French, for while they were suffering the economic depression during 1885 and 1899 their country won colonies in Africa and Asia. The democratisation process in Europe had been long and bloody, particularly in France. Rama V had been so modern even before his visits to Europe, one would have thought that he had lived or graduated from the west. But he was an absolute monarch who had many wives, and so the troubled French people under the Third Republic took lands from the Kingdom of Siam and demanded horrendous amounts of ransom. Those who took things which do not belong to them always cunning and devices and are always on the wrong, so there is no need to dwell on the details of the captures. Western historians argue that these pieces of land obtained by force never

historically belonged to Siam. This to a certain degree was right, but it would have been equally so regarding any piece of land of whichever nation on earth if you go back into the history long enough, for example the Siam following the fall of Ȧyudhȧyạ presumably only only Dhonbụrị, France used to belong to England which in turn used to belong to the Romans. But to summarise, these lands ceded are namely Penang to the UK during 1786 – 1800 while the prime minster was William Pitt the Younger of Tory (1783 – 1801, and again 1804 – 06) during the time of George III who reigned 1760 – 1820; Dȧvạy, Marid́ and Tanạwśrị to the UK in 1793; outer Khmer in 1867 to France under Napoleon III who was the president of the Second Republic from 1848 to 1852 and then the self-appointed emperor of France during 1852 – 1870; Siḅsaung Cudaiy to France in 1888 when the president of France was Sadi-Carnot whose office was 1887 – 1894; the eastern side of the Khọng River to France in 1893; the western side of the same river to the same in 1904 when the president was Émile Loubet whose office lasted 1899 – 1906; the Bụrȧbạ prefecture in 1907 also to the Third Republic when its president was now Armand Fallières whose office was 1906 – 1913; and Malạyụ in 1909 to the UK under H H Asquith of Liberal whose prime-ministerial office was 1908 – 16 and the monarch was Edward VII who reigned but not ruled during 1901 – 10. Ironically a gift from the people of Siam to their king on his 40th birthday was the statue of him sitting on the horse back, casted in, of all places, Paris. On 11 November 1908 the king unveiled his own monumental statue.

Rama V sent his son Vȧjirạvudh to England to study in 1893. In 1894 the Crown Prince, Vȧjiruṇȧhiś, became sick and died in Siam. Vȧjirạvudh became the new Crown Prince. In 1896 England agreed with France to let Siam remain a buffer state and leave her alone.

Numerous bridges were built during the reign of Rama V, and he funded building one each year specifically for the celebration of his birthday. The title deeds of the land started in 1901, and the Daḅiandị́din (land registration) Office was established. Raṣȧd́ạnupradiṣṭha introduced *yạngbạrạ*, Hevea brasiliensis, from Malaysia to Trang. Rama V wrote many books among which are *Siḅsaung d́uan* Royal Ceremony, *Klai ḅạ̀n*, and *Ngau pặ* . The comet Halley came during 18 April until 16 May 1910. Rama V died later on that year.

In many way Rama V has become like a god to many people. You see his portrait everywhere. I have no opinions regarding what is history because I do not wish to judge. All great kings since the 18th century think that democracy is best for the people. 'But not now,' they would say, 'after I am gone perhaps'. Colonisation apart, this was not the first time the French had tried to do a monarch in. They had done it to themselves before, that is to their king Louis XVI. From the point of view of the royal family or a royalist they might be more dangerous than

the English, because the latter still have their queen even now. They are pragmatists whereas the French are idealists.

Some think that it was wise of the king that we should have lost half of the country instead of becoming a colony. Others say that it should have been to either stand or fall together. Humiliation, however, is only recognised as being a virtue in Christianity not in Buddhism. The trouble is that Siam's disintegration at that time made it impossible for Thailand to become whole again after the colonisation fad was over. But perhaps that is the way it should have been. Ironically Rama V abolished the monarchy of Lanna in the north while at the same time feared the abolition of his kingdom by the Third Republic of France. This is the thing we now see everywhere, however. Some vulgarly put it as the *pecking order*.

Siam was caught between two fires. On the west was the English and on the east the French. With the king's status bearing the greatest part of the risk the former must have seemed to be more amiable between the two, the English seemed to be more monarchy-friendly. But to submit to them would have meant the possibility, or even the likelihood, of getting into the same boat with the Burmese. And that, to a post-Ayudhaya Siamese is certainly out of the question.

Rama VI (1 Jan. 1880 – 26 Nov. 1925) was educated in England between 1893 and 1901, that is to say, from the Royal Military Academy (founded 1799) near Sandhurst in the southern part of England, and then the Christchurch College, Oxford, from 1899. In 1911 there was a failed attempt made by a group of *Young Turks* to overthrow the monarchy. All those approximately 100 people arrested were forgiven and released on 11 November 1924. The *Buddhaśakaraj* (Buddhist Era or BE) was adopted, starting from 1st April 1912, which replaced the *Ratanakosindr Śok* The new era is 543 years before the *anno domini*.

The Branagaur Library was founded on 6th January 1916 which later changed into the National Library and moved to the present place at the Vasukri Pier. The air postal service was started on 17 February 1919 between Bangkok and Candaburi. *Suapă* (wild tiger) was begun on 6th May 1911, and the same thing for women (tigress) in 1920. The Boy Scouts started on 1st July 1909. It was created in England by Robert Baden-Powel in 1908. The building of the Sanamcandra Palace in Nagaurpathom began in 1907. On 2nd January 1912 the Vajira Hospital was opened, and on 30 May 1914 the Culalongkaur Hospital. Mahitaladhibesr (d. 24 Sep. 1929) modernised the medical practices in Siam. He studied at the Harvard University in the US.

Under the pseudonym of NMS, Rama VI wrote many books, for example Kanok Nagaur, Lilit Sam Krung, and Nidan Vetal. He created the practice of having surnames in 1913, and coined the first surname, 'Sukhum', for Yomaraj (Pan) who was entrusted with the founding of

the Thai Cement in 1913. The *Glang Ạumsin* (saving bank) was founded on 1st April 1913 in Bạngzụe. The Orville Wright aeroplane was demonstrated in 1911, the first pilots trained and returned from France in 1913. The Aviation Section (phànạek kạrbịn) was set up in 1913. Nowadays this has become the Air Force. The Ḍaunmuang Airport was completed on 1st March 1914. The royal ground in Satảhịb was given to the Navy on 16 September 1922 to be built into a naval base which was completed in 1974. The first battleship, Braròang, was built and launched in 1920. It served the Navy until 19 June 1959. Telegraph stations were set up at Śạlạd́ạeng in Bangkok and in Songkhlạ. The foundation of the *Ḅayịạkạr* (now Akṣaurśạstŕa) Building of the Kàṛajàkạr Bolảruan School was laid by Rama VI on 3rd January 1915. The school changed its status on 26 March 1916 into the first university, and then on 6th April 1917 obtained the new name of the Culạlongkaur (Chulalongkorn) University. From 1st April 1916 it became illegal to gamble. Cooperation was begun by Bidàyạlongkaurṇa, and the first cooperative was set up in Bịṣàṇulọk in 1916. In 1917, on 28 September the present tri-colour flag replaced the elephant one as the national flag. From October to November 1917 Bangkok was flooded extensively for the first time.

On 22 July 1917 Rama VI decided to involve Siam in the First World War three years into the fighting. On 19 June 1918 Bijayjạyṛiddhi (later Dẹbhasàd́in) and 1,200 volunteers went to Europe to help with fighting. They made it just in time for the victory celebrations in Paris on 14 July 1918, which is the French National Day, when they were found marching through the Arc de Triomphe. All the soldiers, less 19, returned on 10 April 1919 received a medal from the king. The monument for those who died was erected near Sànạmloang, and the ceremony was held on 24 September 1919. As one of the Allies, Siam signed the Treaty of Versailles and became one of the founding members of the League of Nations which was created in 1919. Francis B. Sayre, who was the son in law of the president of the US, was appointed to seek revisions to the treaties imposed on Siam by the Powers in Europe. This he succeeded as the result of which Siam was again autonomous both fiscally and judicially. Sayre was given the name of Kalàyạṇàmaitrị (*lit* good friend).

The *Nẹtr Nạrị* (Girl-Guides, *lit* girl's eyes) was founded in 1914. The *Yuvàkạjạd́* (Young Red Cross) began on 27 January 1922. The central railway station, Họa Lạmbọng, was built in 1916, while the construction of the Rama VI Bridge commenced on 15 June 1922. The bridge was opened on 1st January 1926, the first bridge ever to go across the Càobrayạ River. The northern railway line was also opened during this reign, with its 1.5 kilometre tunnel at Khuntạl.

Rama VI founded the Varrṇàgàd́ị Sàmọsaur (literary society) on 23 July 1914. Some of the plays that he wrote are *Họacaị Nakroḅ* , Madànabạdhạ and Branolgaṃlhoang. He also took part in the plays he had

written, wrote articles and drew cartoons for newspaper. From 1921 all Thai children must enter a school when they reach the age of 7 to study for at least four years until Prathom IV or until they became 14. In 1925 he donated a large plot of land to be turned into a public park, the Lumbiṇi Park. He died from appendicitis.

You enjoy living in a country more if you know something about its history. For example the headquarter of Loxley where I used to work is on the Sụapạ̄ Road the name of which is created after the Wild Tiger introduced by Rama VI. And if you want to experience the first road ever built in Bangkok you may just take the Number 1 Bus. This bus follows the Cảroeṵkrung Road as it was built by Rama IV.

Rama VII (Pokklào or Prajạ̀dhipok Śakd́iḍ́ejṅa, 8 Nov. 1893 – 30 May 1941) became king on 26 November 1925. He went to school in England at Eaton before going on to study soldiering. He organised the first national jamboree in Bangkok for Boys Scouts during 26 February – 3 March 1927. He visited Singapore and Java in 1929, French Indo-China in 1930, and Canada and the US in 1931. During that time a meal costed about one sàtạngġa. The first cinema had its foundation laid by the king on 1st July 1930. It was completed and opened on 2nd July 1933. There lived also at this time Bụyraud́ Bhiromṳ̀abhakd́ị who founded the Bụyraud́ Brewery since 3rd April 1933, and Loeś Śrẹṣṭhảḅutr who rose from a factotum to an influential business man.

A group of military men led by four army officers, namely Bảhol Bolbảyuhảsẹṇạ, Drongsurảd́ej, Ṛiddhi Agảneṵya and Praśạsṅa Bidảyạ-yuddh, seized power from the king on 24 June 1932. Though Rama VII was a trained soldier himself, there was no resistance to the change on his part. But what followed were the struggles for power when coup d'états took place one after another. Seeing the state they put his country in, the king's heart was broken and he died, in England, of the heart failure. But the corruption and misuses of public funds went on. Money and power became the aim, while the means the taking of power by force and arms, together with the killing innocent people who happened to be standing in the way of their road to hell. This had gone on until as late as 1992. These misuses done to the country are the main reasons for the accumulating international debts as well as the economic crisis in 1997.

Pṛid́ị Bảnomyongġa's controversial *sảmud́ pok lhuang* (yellow-covered book), an economic plan that tries to serve the third policy among the six announced by the conspirators, which says, 'The economic well-being of the people shall be looked after. The new government shall find a job for every man and establish an economic plan such that there will be no hunger', resulted in the closure of the National Assembly on 1st April 1933 and then on 20 June of the same year.Biḅulsonggṛam ousted the first prime minister, Mảnọpảkaurṇa Nitidhạd́ạ, thus began the tradition of the army's ruling over democracy. A failed attempt of a counter-coup

followed on 11 October 1933 by a group of soldiers led by Bậuvaurậd̀ej. The Dharrmậśậtŕa University was opened on 27 June 1934 as an open university which taught Laws and Political Economics, but then changed into a closed university.

Śrịvijay (11 June 1878 – 22 Mar. 1938) was the monk who built the road up the Sudẹb Mountain in Jiangmhăị between 9th November 1934 and 30 April 1935 when it was opened. The construction of this 12-km road lasted 5 months and 22 days, with 5,000 workers each day on average, all of whom were, I think, volunteers. In 1932 the Pĭnkàew rice won the First Prize at the International Exhibition at Regina, Canada. It is a *khậw nạ soan.* The other type of rice is *khậw nạ rài.* Rama VII abdicated on 2nd March 1934.

Rama VIII (Ạnandậmậhid̀ol, 20 Sep. 1925 – 9 June 1946) came to the throne on 2nd March 1934. At the age of 21 he was murdered in his bed. Virginia tobacco was introduced in the north in 1935. Biḅulsonggrạm set up the new *yuvậjon dậhạr* (school cadet), whereby all male students of the Culạlongkaur University must take part and wear the uniform to the university. The *yuvậ nạrị* for girls followed after 1937. In 1936 new roads were built, namely Bậholyọdhin, Sukhumvid and Bejrkậṣẹm, the first two of which probably have their name from the name of Bậhol Bolbậyuhậsẹnạ who overthrew Rama VII's power and had become the prime minister and Pàn Sukhum who was one of the regents to Rama VIII. On 29 June 1938 the four submarines arrived from Japan where there were built. They are namely Blạyjumbol, Macchạnu, Sinsậmudr and Viruḷcaṃḅang. In 1938 the government asked for Rama V's D́usit Garden, which they then turned into the D́usit Zoo, aka Khaod́invậnạ. The acts regarding preservation of the forests was passed and several national parks were established around the country. Plạek Biḅulsonggrạm became the next prime minister towards the end of December of that year. In 1939 he created the 24th of June as the National Day when the foundation was laid of the Democracy Monument, which was completed and opened on the National Day of the following year. The National *krị̣dạsậthạn* (national stadium) was built. Lùan Bongṣasọbhọn invented the *sạm lậu*, a tricycle that is a marriage between the bicycle and the rickshaw. The Bank of Thailand was set up on 24 June 1940, which if you remember is a National Day. In 1939, the Third Republique of France under the presidency of Albert Lebrun was fighting Germany. The country found itself between the Nazis and the fascist Italy, much the same way that Siam between the British colony of Burma and the French Indo-China during the 19th century. The *drôle de guerre* (astonishing war) ended with a disaster in May and June and the German occupation of France in 1940. Meanwhile, in London General de Gaulle launched his famous mustering on 18 June. The armistice was signed on the 22nd and the *régime de Vichy* whereby Phillippe Pétain was given

the full power was installed in the non-occupied zone in France during 1940 – 1944. Over here on 8th October 1940 a mass of the School Cadets gathered in front of the Grand Palace. The French force still bombed Nȧgaurbȧnom. The crisis was reached on 28 November after which Thai army fought back and in doing so regained Caṃpaśakd́xi, Saṃrọng and Congkal of Siamrạth. Starting from 1st January 1941 the Thai New Year changed from 1st April to 1st January. The number of the Thai consonants was reduced in order to simplify the language. On 17 January 1941 the Dhonbụrị damaged La Motte Piquet, was hit in return and then sank. Japan intervened in the broils and Thailand was given back lands whereby the new Bratabaulng, Bibụlsonggrạm, Caṃpaśakd́xi and Lạnjāng were formed. The foundation of the new Victory Monument to be built was laid on the National Day in 1941. Then on 8th December 1941 Japan entered the Second World War, and on 11th December Thailand signed the agreement to become their ally. Prị́dị Bȧnomyongġa formed the anti-Japanese movement and in the *sẹrịdaiy* (free Thailand) was formed by Sẹnịya Prạmọj in the US. There was a big flood in Bangkok in 1942 which lasted for more than a month.

In order to conquer India the Japanese built a railway line from Thailand to Burma. Thousands of prisoners of war lost their lives during the construction of the bridge across the River Gvạe (Kwai) the work of which started in September 1942 and the bridge opened on 25 December 1943. Among those who perished were people from Australia, England, Holland, Java and Malaya. Trousers and skirts replaced the *congkrabẹn* as the national dresses. Everyone had to wear a hat and learn how to stand in a queue. The practice of chewing *mhạk* (areca nuts) with betel leaves and lime was banned.

The Kȧṣẹtrśạstŕa College of 1938 – 1943 that used to be an agricultural college before 1938 was changed into the Kȧṣẹtrśạstŕa University.in 1943. In 1966 its new campus at Kaṃbạengsạen was established. A university of Medicine was founded in 1943 which later became the Mȧhid́ol University. In the same year the Praṇịtśilȧpȧkarrm School became the Śilȧpạkaur University. Its Nȧgaurpȧthom campus at the Sȧnạmcandŕa Palace was created in 1968. Bibụlsonggrạm wanted to move the capital city to Bejrȧbụrṇa and set up the Buddhism headquarter in Sȧrabụrị. Many people died from Malaria who went there to build the city, and as the result he had to resign from the premiership. Goang Ȧbhayvongśxa became the next prime minister on 1st August 1944. Then on 6th August 1945 Hiroshima was bombed, on the 9th Nagasaki, and on the 14th the capitulation of Japan after which he annulled the alliance with Japan and resigned. Dȧvị Bụyyȧkẹtu became the prime minister in the interim which lasted 17 days, during the period of which the Teacher Act of 1945 by which the *guru sȧbhạ* (teacher's council) was created. The leader of the Free Thai Movement, Sẹnịya Prạmọj, came back from the

US to become the new prime minister on 17 September 1945. Meanwhile Rama VII lived and studied in Europe. He came back to Thailand on 5th December 1945. The about-face was fine with the US because the Free Thai Movement's leader had been with them all along, but the UK wanted 1½ million tonnes of free rice from Thailand, whereby the US intervened to say that they should buy it. The agreement was signed on 1st January 1946. In order to become a member of the United Nation, Thailand had to return all the lands it had gotten back to the Republic of France under the provisional government of Charles de Gaulle. It became the 55th member of the UN on 16 December 1946.

Goang Àbhayvong became the prime minister again on 31 January 1946 but resigned after 45 days. He was replaced by Pṛídị Bànomyongġ in March 1946. Bibụlsonggrạm was arrested but released at the end of that month. Street names are ever changing, especially so those that are in honour of someone who had ruled with the absolute power. In the early 1990s the street on which I live had its name changed from Bibụlsonggrạm to Prajạrạj Sạy 1. On 5th May 1946 Rama VII endorsed the new constitution.

Rama IX (b, 5 Dec. 1927) succeeded Rama VIII to the throne on 9th June 1946. During his reign universities were created, for instance Culạbhaurṇa in Jayàbhụmi, Jiangmhăị, Khạunkặen, Laṃtagaung in Nàgaurrạjàsiṃạ, Songkhlạnàgàrindřa and Śrịnàgàrindàràvirọdh. The Càobrayạ Dam was built in Jaynạd during 1952 – 1960 and the Bhụmibol Dam in Tạk during 1958 – 1964. Other dams are Bạnglạng in Nàrạdhivạs, Kặengkracạn in Bejrbụrị, Nāṃbaung and Ubọlratṅa in Khaunkặen, Nāṃbung in Sàkolnàgaur, Sirikiṫi in Utàràdiṫtha, and Sirindhaur in Ubọlrạjàdhạnị From 22 October until 5 November 1956 the king became a monk, and during the period Queen Sirikiṫi (b. 12 Aug. 1932) reigned in place of him. Anno Domini 1957 is an important date in Buddhism for it marks the middle point of the third millennium in the Buddhist Era. At Śạlạyạ in Nàgaurpàṭhom was built the Buddhàmoṇḍol on the ground of 2,500 *ràị* where a new Buddha image was placed which is 2,500 *kraḅiaḋ* (16.25 m) high. From this time onwards Marshals replaced the Monarchy who called themselves prime ministers. These Field Marshals started from Plạek Bibụlsonggrạm who in ruled the country during 1940 – 45 and again in 1947, Thànaum Kittikhàcaur in 1957, Sàṛiṣḋxi Dhànarajṫa (d. 9 Dec. 1963) in 1959, and Kittikhàcaur again in 1963. The word 'communists' came to be frequently used by some of them to label younger people, especially university students who stood up against their rules, many of whom insisted that they were protesting for democracy and against tyranny. Whenever there was a coup d'état there would be announcements on the radio, curfews imposed, and no gatherings of people no matter how small a group allowed. These coup d'états are like the tossing of a coin. On one side is written *kàḅọt* (rebel) and on the other

pàṭivati (revolution). The latter applies if it should succeed while the former if it fails. Only one thing is certain, that is that you are doomed if charged for being a communist.

Kṛiṣàna says in the Bhagavad Gītā, "'I do not do anything," should think the harmonised one, who knoweth the essence of things; seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, eating, moving, sleeping, breathing'. The Thai monk Buddhàdaṣ says something similar, 'Van nī dāng van rao màidài daṃ arai loey', in other words, 'Today I have not done anything'. However his words were either misleading or misinterpreted when he said that killing Communist is no sins. The state of detachment mentioned by Kṛiṣàna is that which resembles natural phenomena, in general our subconscious self. A man is never without attachments except when his subconsciousness is at work instead of the conscious mind. All martial arts strive to train this subconscious mind through repeatedly doing some actions. The Arts of Fighting are thus never a sport. Less so are they a path to become a warrior. They are solely the teaching of the subconscious mind how to dance. When Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900) used the word *dance*, I think he also means the same thing as that here, that is to say, the involuntary actions. In *Thus speaks Zarathustra* (1883) he made Zarathustra tell us, 'to dance beyond yourselves! What does it matter that you are failures!' This is the same detachment from actions valued alike by the *Bhagavad Gītā* and martial artists. Therefore, knowing that you are killing a Communist, say, it is a sin, because God says, 'Thou shalt not kill!' In fact it is a sin already if we bent upon killing. Our actions are ruled by our consciousness, therefore we are held answerable to them. We can only see glimpses of our subconscious mind when it is at work in emergency situations in the form of reflexes. All fightings should be a reflex, and their sole purpose a self-defence. In this state one will not. Most laws recognise this and say that no actions done in a spontaneous self-defence be considered a *crime*, this word being the closest earthly equivalence to *sin*. In fact one never sees how his own subconscious actions work. One sees only the results, and others the actions. Neither knows how it works. This is what makes sports like archery is so attractive. One never have a control at the moment immediately before the bow is released. You never do well if you try to control that very instance. It is in the same realm, I would say, of percolation, where something takes place by itself when the time is ripe.

Organised in Philippines in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation gave an award to Nilàvarṇ Pīndaung on Social Services in 1961, Póay Ùengbhạkaurṇa on Economics in 1965, Fhon Sạengkàew on Health Organisation in 1966, Siddhibaur Kṛuedạkaur on Agriculture in 1967, Prayụr Carryạvongṣa on Journalism in 1971, Càrụy Pạncandṛa on his counter-drug treatments using traditional herbs in 1975, Krasạe Jàna-

vongśxa on Medical Services in 1976, Praveś Vasi on Medical Research in 1981, and Pradip Ùengdrongdharrm on Public Services in 1978.

The names of Thai people usually have no tonal marks. This is because they are normally words with a Sanskrit origin. On the other hands names in Lānnạ often come from Pali. Neither one of these two languages is a tonal language. Apart from onomatopoeia no words in Thai have tonal symbols other than the *ẹk* and *dọ* symbols. The Dai language before the Tonal Split which occurred around mid-Ảyudhảyạ period must have had either three or four tones and two symbols. If you come across a Thai word which has either the *trị* or the *catảvạ* symbol, you can safely assume that it is either foreign in origin or onomatopoeic. From this we can see that the name *Póay* above is no Thai words. In fact it is Chinese.

During 1959 – 60 the king and queen visited countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and the US. In Asia he went to Burma, Indonesia and Vietnam. An international airport was built at Ḍaunmuang, and in 1960 the Thai Airways International was founded. In 1961 the Bhụbingġa Palace was built in Jiangmhăi and after that the Dakṣiṇ and Bhụbạn Palaces. Culạrạjàmontrị was created to head people who believe in Islam. He visited Malaysia during 20 – 27 June 1962, Japan during 27 May – 5 June 1963 during the 38th year of Emperor Shouwa's reign. Śilp Bịraśrị died in 1962. He was an Italian Art professor who had lived in Thailand since 1923 and had built many statues for the monuments here. On 18 August 1964 was opened the planetarium in Bangkok. About fifteen years later I went there with a school trip and had a memorable experience. In 1965 Ạbhasảrạ Hongsảkul won the Miss Thailand Contest and then the Miss Universe one which was held in Florida. Thailand hosted the Fifth Asian Games in 1966, and again the Eight in 1978. The South-East Asia Peninsula Games was first organised in Bangkok in 1961 and the Fourth SEAP Games was held again here during 9 – 16 December 1967. After Brunei, Indonesia and Philippines joined the games and it changed into the South-East Asian Games. Hẹm Vẹjàkaur (17 Jan. 1903 – 16 April 1969) was an illustrator and painter. He illustrated many literary and historical books. By 1970 textiles had become the most important industry in the country. In 1971 was founded the open university, the Rạmgaṃhạeng University. Also in 1971 the Railway Authority gave a piece of land to the king that was eventually built into the Cảtucakr Park which was opened on 30 December 1978. Elizabeth II came to Thailand in February 1972 and the king and queen of Malaysia was here in February 1973. On 14 October 1973 the army under the Field Marshal Kittikhảcaur opened fire on students who gathered to demonstrate for democracy. In the end he had to resign and together with his family fled the country. The king appeared on the television to talk to the people on the evening of 17 October. He had

appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the Dharrmȧśaṣtŕa University, Sayyạ Dharrmȧśakd́xi, to be the next prime minister from 16 October.

Sạenśakd́xi Muangsurindŕa, also known as Sạeḅ, won the World Championship in junior welter-weight (135 – 147 lb.) on 15 July 1975 and many times thereafter. The western-style boxing as a sport was introduced in Thailand in 1927 and Phọn Kĭngbejr won the title in flyweight (112 lb. or less). Phọn was before my time, but I remember watching Sạeḅ on the television several times, that is when he won against Pedro Fernandez in 1975 in Bangkok and again on 29 October 1976 when he won Miguel Velazquez in Spain. Somehow the teacher or someone produced a television set which we all watch in the classroom instead of studying. We also watched Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay, b. 1942) fought for the heavy-weight (175 lb. or over) title in the same manner, but it was towards the end of his career as a boxer and he did not always win.

The *Hạngyạw* (long-tailed) boat was invented in Thailand. It has a small propeller at the end of the long tube extending behind the boat. Providing the worst source of the noise pollution because it is very loud, it is found everywhere from Bangkok to the Khọng River on the Laos border. The engine is never put inside any casing and there are no measures to counter the blast. Sundȧrạbhaurṇa or Ùa Sundaursȧnạn (1910 – 1981) wrote and sang songs in Thai in the style similar to crooners of 1930s and 1940s to whom he was a contemporary. The Stock Exchange of Thailand began its operation on 30 April 1975.

Princess Sirindhaur received her Bachelor of Art in languages from the Culạlongkaur University on 15 July 1977, while Princess Culạbhaurṇa received her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the Kȧṣẹtrśaṣtŕa University on 19 July 1979. Both received their degree from the king. In 1991 I received my first BEng in Mining Engineering from King Rama IX, in 1992 my BS in Computer Science from Princess Sirindhaur, and in 1993 again another BEng in Electrical Engineering from the king.

Formerly Nhaunggạy was known as Bàṇphăi. King Rama III (1787 – 1851, reigned 1824 – 1851) founded the province in 1827 and named it *Nhaunggạy* after the name of a lake west of the town. Dậw Suvạu (Ḅuymạ) became *Bra Pȧdumdẹvạbhiḅạl*, the first governor of Nhaunggạy.

Hairdressing schools in Thailand have places for their students to practise on a real subject where you can have your hair cut for free. Usually the teacher starts at your hair on one side and then lets his student carry on with the other. Thus these schools represent an apprenticeship where the students pay for the customers' haircut. They pay their tuition fee, say, for a year and during this period practise under supervision. My hair is straight and sometimes I have it curled before having the hair cut, after which I look somewhat better. You can alter your appearance simply by having your hair curled.

Schools of dentist also have a similar thing for their students to work on a real subject. You have your treatment for free or for a small fee. Here at the dental college of the Chulalongkorn University I have my four wisdom teeth removed in 1989 and throw them all into the pond behind the university's front gate. Then I go to England for traineeships at John Dallimore and Partners in Walton-on-Thames during the summer holiday.

In 1996 I have the amalgum filling in my teeth replaced with gold inlays when I visit Thailand from Japan, again at the Chulalongkorn University's dental college. Dentists are divided into two camps, one which is for amalgum while the other against it. In England and Europe they use gold in place of amalgum whereas in Japan composite materials are preferred. In Thailand, however, people still like to use the mercurial amalgum that I surprise everyone when I say what I want done. Some of the gold have not been well-fitted and they will prove to cause troubles afterwards.

From Saturday 22 November until Sunday 14 December 1997 I am in Thailand, and until 7th December show Megumi around the country in the pick-up that my father had newly bought. Her bag has been damaged on the plane and needs to be repaired, so we do that on Sunday. Then we go to the Cạeng Temple and come back by boat from the pier there. We buy the train tickets on Monday 25th, then visit the Bra Kàew Temple, where the Grand Palace is, and then come back to our place at Rama VII by the express boat from the Ạdityạ Pier. Then we catch the train to Jiangmhăị in the evening. We go up to the Sudẹb Mountain in Jiangmhăị the following day. We make a circuit trip where we drive to Mậe Hàungsaun. On the 27th we stay in Mậe Sariang. On our way here I stopped the car on the mountain road around 9 pm or so, then we put some mosquito lotion on, get off the car and look up at the Milky Way in the sky. It shines so brightly here, the testimony of the Creation, a promenade across the sky with contour so distinct a child would never have missed and there is no question about mistaking it for the cloud. One does not need to learn about it in the class before one recognises it here where you feel yourself so close to the Universe and to God. On the 28th we stay at Mậe Hàungsaun, on the 29th at Pạy, and back to Jiangmhăị on the 30th. On Monday 1st December I show her during the day the temples and at night the Night Bazaar while the car is being serviced after its first long drive. We are on our way to Bangkok the following day. On Tuesday we stay at Sukhọday. On Wednesday 3rd we visit Sukhọday and Śrịsajảnạlay, and stay at Kaṃbạengbejr, on Thursday at Ảyudhảyạ where we spend some time on the following day before going back to Bangkok.

To Thai people the history of the country normally starts with the Sukhọday Kingdom. The kings of Sukhọday are namely Nạwnaṃdhom;

Indàrà Ḅàudíndàrạdityạ (Phạmuang); Indàrạdityạ (Ḅạng Klạnghạw); Ḅạnmuang (d. 1279); Rạmgaṃhạeng (reigned. 1279, d. 1299); Saisonggrạm (r. 1299, d. 1322); Lọedai (r. 1322, d. 1340); Ngọanaṃthom (r. 1340, d. 1347); Śrịsụràyàbongśxarạm or Dharrmàrạjạ I (Lidai, r. 1347); Dharrmàrạjạ II; Dharrmàrạjạ III (Ṣailụedai, d. 1419); and Dharrmàrạjạ IV (Ḅàrompạl, r. 1419, d. 1438).

'What is all this nonsense about the reverse brain drain?', I think to myself as a manager at the Thai national research body NECTEC tells me that they are having problems with funds and there will be no jobs for me there, 'They told us not a year ago to come back and serve our country, and I emailed them and they seemed like they would be very happy if I could come back to Thailand and work for them in the field of E-commerce. What perfidy!' Myself I never like the idea that we should flock together if only arguing from the fact that we are human not bird, for instance. A wide network with long-distance cooperations is by far a better idea that is more robust. But I come back to Thailand all the same, not because there is no opportunities for me to live and work in Japan, but because I find it more challenging to be here when the economic crisis of the country is at its worst. Japan also has its share of economic downturns it is true. But these are by no means a crisis, the robust essential and fundamental elements of the country's society does not allow this. No, it is right here that I had wondered, most often silently but sometimes aloud, to myself and some friends of mine why such an unrobust society as this should had lasted for so long and seemed to be thriving even. But I have applied for a job everywhere and have not been given even half a job, I ask God, 'Father, why am I here? I am not needed here, so I want to know wherefore you put me here and not elsewhere'. Of course there is no reply from Him, or I would not be standing here now if there was one. You never expect a reply from God, for His attribute is that of a good listener. But have faith that he knows your needs and is working out something for you. You need never bother to make a lengthy descriptive or narrative prayer either, for he knows what you need before you realise it even.

At the end of June 1999 I read books from the library of the Japan Cultural Center again. I used to be a member here before, but my card has long since expired. However, I can use my old membership number, which is G 007, and since it sounds like an exclamation followed by the number of Bond I am quite happy with it. The library is still free of charge now. But not long after this however, that is in 2003, the library introduces a fee for borrowing members. This is the case with not only this library but also the library at the Goethe Institut. This is not at all good, since a library should be free of charge. Knowledge should be free for all and affordable to everyone.

By 30th July I have applied through the British Council in Bangkok

for places to do a PhD in Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge and in Political Economics at the London School of Economics and Political. I have to ask both David and Graham to be my referee. I also apply to do the Study of Translation, and write to Mona to say that I am interested in machine translation, My research interest is in machine translation and the design and implementation of a word-processor that is capable of multi-languages environments. The examples of these are TEX and Mule. There are ample rooms for developments in this area, some of the things of which are fundamental. Katsuhisa still lacks compassion as ever, for he writes to me on 13^{th} August 1999 to discourage me from researching and teaching. And imagine Ben still suggests that I should return to Japan to complete the degree! I have come to doubt the integrity of heathens. Most Buddhists whom I know are to me agnostics. Either this or they are pragmatists even in their dream, and thus are attached to nothing except idols. I also apply to the University of Paris-6.

I can not live with out playing the piano. Since there are no libraries in Thailand that have piano musics, I ask Rick on the 16^{th} to buy some of them for me from the Internet. He is in Ohio and therefore it is easier from him to buy things that way there. I must have thought that I shall live forever, in Thailand in any case, for I buy so many books of musics by various composers, among others Isaac Albéniz (1860 – 1909; Iberia and Espana), Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 – 1788), Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750; Italian concerto, chromatic fantasia and fuge; Organ music), Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 – 1707), William Byrd (1542 or 1543 – 1623; My lady nevells booke of virginal music), César Auguste Franck (1822 – 1890; Organ works), François Couperin (1668 – 1733), French piano music, Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829 – 1869), Enrique Granados (1867 – 1916; Goyescas, Spanish dances), George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759), Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809; Complete piano sonatas), Franz Liszt (Piano transcriptions from French and Italian Operas), Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706), Russian piano music, Erik Satie (Alfred Eric Leslie Satie, 1866 – 1925; Gymnopedies, gnossiennes and other works), Domenico Scarlatti (1685 – 1757; keyboard sonatas), Franz Peter Schubert (1797 – 1828; Dances for solo piano), Piano transcription of marches by John Philip Sousa (1854 – 1932), Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 – 1621), and Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767; 36 fantasias for keyboard).

By 11^{th} December 1999 I have been jobless for more than seven months. During the first six months of that period I was very upset. Having written to no less than a hundred companies, I have found no jobs. I went to Paris for a one-year DEA which could lead to another three years of PhD. But the expense is higher than I had expected, so I came back. Also, my french is terrible and I found it difficult to follow the lectures. I am at the moment more relaxed now, taking life

as it comes. I read books on Philosophy which I could borrow from the library at the Goethe Institut, and I play the piano. Today I went to Goethe Institut again and then to Chula because it was the third and last day the Culạ *vijạkạr* (teaching) Days. The BTS, that electrified, elevated train dubbed the *sky-train*, is already up and running. The infrastructure of Bangkok is going to take shape at long last, which is amazing for a city this size. All good things come late even when they are on time. The lateness of something only goes to say that it is here, and nothing more. The timing is nothing, the attitude everything.

For most parts of 2000 I am without jobs and live in Bangkok. I try to find out how to tune a piano yourself, but it seems to be difficult. I search on the Internet, and come up with things like, 'You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish', which is of course definitely American if you hear the difference. Puns are well-liked the world over. I see Ben sometimes, and when I mention this to him he tells me another one which he has seen in an ad I think of the Guinness Beer. It goes, 'Toocans in a nest. Try it and see what one or toocans do'. He says you have to bring out what you have and say to people, 'This is me. Try me!', to be employed. I think that this is synthesised from all the know-how's you know. But before that is the know-why's which are the results of the reflection and research you have done on the knowledge or information you have.

A country is never without wraths. When you do not heed its needs, it resorts to social problems. I wish I could keep myself aloft and out of this world. But a young girl misusing her body, for instance, is nothing new on earth. Thinking that they are defying the rules, they are in fact greatly influenced by them. If she is proud that she has finally done what others believe to be wrong, then she is actually under the influence of the social norms and taboos as much as those who told her not to do such things. I hope she sees what I mean. This is mid-April (20^{th}) and the hottest time of the year. Hedge-funds only destroy your body, but drugs get rid of your soul. This is the stuff that the percolation of a country is made of. It is the question of *to be*, or *not to be*, to be no more.

I remember that Ken told me, in early October of 1998, how a boy who failed in maths was sent to a Catholic school, after which he turned a genius on the subject. It was not the school but the boy himself who did it. 'On that first day, when I walked in the front door,' he related, 'and saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I *knew* they were serious!' Possibly, a partial solution to the question, 'Muss mann zuerst sterben wird, daß mann immer um zu leben kann?', must be to 'Learn as if to live forever; live as if to die tomorrow'.

Towards the end of 2000 I do some research in languages at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in the UK, which leads to the discovery of a new writing system using the Roman

alphabets for the Thai language by the end of 2001. In the Thai writing system space is for separating ideas, the equivalent of the punctuation marks comma, semi-colon, colon and full stop in English. You put no space between words in general. To a novice this makes the syllabification a nightmare. I adopt the English system of punctuation. Then the 32 Thai vowels become a, ạ, i, ị, ue, ụe, u, ụ, e, ẹ, ae, ạe, o, ọ, au, ạu, oe, ọe, ia, ịa, ua, ụa, oa, ọa, ṛue, ṛụe, lue, ḷụe, aṃ, ai, aị and ao. I standardise these myself. The philosophy that underlies my design is based on both the application and appeals. The tone symbols are adapted from the *pīn yīn* system of China which was developed in Russia's Siberia. As for the consonants, I follow Pali and Sanskrit as much as possible and derive my own way of writing when these fail me, always using only either a dot below them or an acute accent above them or, only once, both. The name of the alphabets are all read with the vowel *ạu*, for example *k* is read 'kạu', *g* 'gạu', and so on, except when you group them into the five groups, each one of which containing five consonants, according to the Pali and Sanskrit grammars when they are read with the vowel *a* instead. These groups are namely the *ka, ca, ṭ, t* and *p*, and are listed respectively as *ka, kha, ga, gha, nga*; *ca, cha, ja, jha, ya*; *ṭa, ṭha, ḍa, ḍha, ṇa*; *ta, tha, da, dha, na*; and *pa, pha, ba, bha, ma*. The dot above a consonant replaces the mute symbol *kạranṫa*, and the consonant under it is thereby not pronounced. The *a* vowel that comes with these muted consonants may be omitted, for example the word *kạranṫa* above may be written as *kạranṫ* without ambiguity, but other vowels, namely *i* and *u*, that come with them must be written, for example, *śakdx́i* (honour) and *bandḣu* (genealogy). The capital *X* is never used, and neither is *x* as an alphabet. The latter when put behind another consonant is equivalent to the dot above it. This is in order to avoid having two symbols above an alphabet the appearance of which I think awkward. An example of this is the word *śakdx́i* just mentioned. The *x* above a vowel means that the latter is *rāi rụp*, that is with no written form. These are predominantly the *a rāi rụp* or non-written *a*, which is written ȧ. Some *ạu* can also be written as *ȧ*, for example *ḅạudx́intrȧa* (king) is the same as *ḅȧdx́intrȧa*. When the vowel *ạu, ịa, ụa*, or *ọa* is followed by a final consonant, the dot that comes with it may be omitted as the result of which it is shortened respectively into *au, ia, ua* and *oa*. All syllables in Thai have the form c_1vc_2 where c_1 is its leading- while c_2 its final consonant. Another reserved character is the *q*, which becomes equivalent for the alphabet that precedes it to the dot below it. You only use this in cases where there are no ways of writing that dot. These are the only two reserved characters, namely the *x* and the *q*. But similarly to them the acute accent may be replaced by the *z* written behind the corresponding alphabet. This is true in cases where it appears on top of a vowel as well as when on a consonant. The four

tone-symbols likewise has their typewriter's replacements, as can be best shown when one considers *kạ, kặ, kạ̀, kạ̄, kạ́* which become *kaq, kaqv, kaqh, kaqf, kaqz* respectively. Here the *q* stands for the underdot as is already mentioned.

'A NIght at the Opera' is a concert on Saturday and Sunday 18 – 19 March 2000 at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok. I help in the performance as a volunteer, doing solo *goang blaung* (pole, in this case flag, spinning) and some sword acts. On 5th March we have a meeting at Daḅ Lẹn in Sȧmudrpṛakạr, on the 11th at Karen's place in Brakhȧnọng, on the 15th a rehearsal inside the gymnasium at the International School of Bangkok on the Sukhumvid Road, and on the 16th a run-through. In the performance I wear on each leg a covering made of cloth and shaped like a tube. At the bottom end of this are attached two long ropes which I pass under the sole of my foot, around my ankle, and then criss-crossing up the leg. I have made myself a silvery helmet which guards my head at the temples and then down the sides of my face and my chin. On top of my head a part of the helmet forms a cross. I perform barefoot. With the swords I do on the first night a mimic *tị kleḍ́* (improvising) bout, cascade-necks and then the *māi 3*. On the second night I feel fed up because Pop had cut up the piece of rope that I use to wind around my swords in place of a scabbard. The rope is a relic from my days in the UK when I used to wind it around my hand the way the rope-fisted boxer did in the old Siam. He has found it on the top of the shelf where I meticulously hid it earlier and has now wound it around his feet. He is the stage producer and I have no clues for what he has been dressing up. I salute with the sword and then pose the *glum traibhob*, in the Lạmbụn style of Páung, where the swords cross each other in shape of a cross and the upper part of one arm rests on the wrist of the other. Because of the salute my bout becomes too short and nobody likes my performance for the second night. Also with the flags I turn myself around while doing the *thẹr kvạ́d lạn* instead of always facing the audience. I have added one piece of costume to my body this evening, that is the cuirass I had made last night. Two strings go up to either side of my neck and then cross each other behind my back before they are fastened to the sides of the breastplate. Polovtsian wears no backplates. In the evening before the show on each night I swim in the hotel's swimming pool. Tonight I stay in the Room 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel under Cuk's name. She had reserved some rooms there in case some of those who were helping in the concert need some place to stay for the night. But everybody was happy to return to their respective home however late, and I am left by myself to this spacious and luxurious room which I enormously enjoy, and the breakfast. In the two pools of the hotel, one in the Embassy Garden on the ground floor and the other on the first floor, I swim the next morning for half an hour. Then I go up to my room to wait for

Cuk to call, and when she finally do come down to meet and talk with her over the coffee.

My mother tongue is a language called *Lanna* and my second language Thai. My first experience of English was in 1972 at the age of six when I was put into an exam room to answer English language questions, having not yet started to learn my ABC. That did it; I cried and the experience stuck. My firsthand experience of a language that comes close to extinction through politics and negligence is through my first language. Not only for Lanna, but now that the Internet percolates and with it English what Ward (2002) calls a *language cull* is a phenomenon of concern which is wiping out languages and language clusters all over the world.

Having spent a great part of my life living outside Thailand, I have grown an interest in transcription systems. This is because Thai can not be written on the computer easily. With an exception of the machine language which uses only zeros and ones, which no one uses, every computer language from the Assembly language upwards is written in English. This makes things difficult not only for Thai, but even for German or French. Encoding standards like Unicode have fought a long and losing battle since no one ever feel confidence with any one of them, let alone feeling secure enough from changes. Once you get outside a cluster of a country like Thailand, you can be assured that life will become very hard for you computerwise unless you can translate all your thoughts into English or are able to write your national script using a roman alphabet transcription.

I have thought and sought long and hard for such transcriptions which will work for Lanna and Thai. Many have tried their hands on this and failed, at least in my point of view. The trouble with these two languages is that they are tonal. Moreover both have more alphabets than the sounds to represent them with due to historical reasons, as a result many alphabets necessarily have the same sound. I discovered the system that I like, and that I am convinced would work, during the most solitary Christmas I have experienced to date, that is that of 2001. Two existing systems help towards the derivation of this system of mine, namely the *Pīn Yīn* system of Chinese and the romanised systems for Pali and Sanskrit.

One may rest assured that Chinese will never be wiped out from the surface of the earth, if only by reasoning from the shear number of people speaking and writing it. But even for a language of such potential as Chinese the help towards this prospect of longevity comes no less from the transcription system just mentioned, Pīn Yīn, which is surprisingly, and ironically, discovered by the Russians. As a transcription for a tonal language, Pīn Yīn puts all the tonal marks above the alphabets, to be more precise vowels. Romanised Pali and Sanskrit systems on the other hand is no tonal languages but have trouble mapping their alphabets

into those of English. As a solution, new alphabets are created from the roman alphabets by three different methods, namely putting a dot beneath the alphabet, writing an *h* behind it, or putting an accent mark on top of it. There are two accents used for such purpose, that is the tilde and the acute accent. I adapted the tonal marks placed on top of vowels from Chinese, and the creation of new alphabets from the method used for these ancient Indo-European languages of the India subcontinent. Luckily these two different adaptations do not conflict with each other as the former only adds things on top of vowels while the latter do so underneath an alphabet or on top of a consonant. The only conflict observed so far comes from the silencing symbol which I keep on top of a consonant, which seldomly has to go on top of an accent. Generally I dislike any two symbols being put on top of the same alphabet, but in this case the phenomenon is so rare as to be comparable with the occasional sixth or seventh put into a minor chord in composing a piece of music that I think it will do for now. All the dots and accents mentioned of course can get into the Internet with neither ease nor elegance, as the french and the German have taught us. But one can choose to omit them as the french do or, what I prefer, to change them each into an alphabet like the German does. I follow this preference to the letter as a result of which if French were written using my general system on an English-only computing environment, then all the accents and cédilles will be changed into their respective equivalent alphabets. At this stage all the transcriptions become possible. It will be another huge leap of faith to the next step where everything, accents and all, may be transcribed on an accent-unfriendly environment of a monolingual computer.

Definitions of the single and the compound vowels differ between the languages of South East Asia and those of the West as a result of which many of the single vowels in the former would have been described as being compound in the latter. Bhụmiśakdżi (1963) in his monograph on the Lahu language followed the original definitions of the languages. He used only one vowel for each of his vowels which are single but had to add *h* and *r* behind most of them to account for their number. His representations of the tonal marks are similar those found in normal use, which also differs from the one I propose here, but seem to follow rules which either are difficult to remember or are still in the making and thus have not been adequately simplified for use. This may be due to the fact that he wrote the treatise while being detained in the Lạd́yạw jail in Bangkok for being a communist, the charge put on him by the militant dictator who rules at that time. It is also interesting to note that Pīn Yīn is also a product of a, this time genuine, communist regime. It was created in Russia during the time when many minority languages of the country are given systematic transcriptions; obviously among these was Mandarin. According to Bohan (1978), the New Latin Script started by the overseas Chinese in Vladivostok in 1931. The present approach

differs from his in that here only the five vowel letters of English are considered as single vowels. This may have been the Pīn Yīn system in its earliest form. It is interesting to note how a latinised system should have been created in Russia. I have no doubt that my system will be able to accommodate Lahu as comfortably as it does Thai and Lanna, but still have to prove this in practice in the future.

Vladivostok is a southern port city of Russia. It has been occupied by both the western as well as the Japanese forces. But in 1931 when what Bohan called the New Latin Script for Chinese started, the city belonged to Russia under Lenin. Therefore it would be interesting to find out whether this purported new script used the Latin alphabets or the Cyrillic. The latter is of course the official script of Russia. My conjecture is that the new transcription system was originally written in Cyrillic and then romanised after the Chinese government adopted and nationalised it. Russia at the time was in a high spirit as it was only one year ago that Lenin told the Russian people not to be *dizzy with success* after a *tremendous achievement* in collective farming. Such system was found published in Moscow two decades after China first became aware of the system (Oshanina, 1955) as a Chinese–Russian dictionary in which words like *shuō, to speak*, was written in the Cyrillic Russian script as *shō* and *shuōlĭ, to argue*, as *shuolĭ*. The tonal marks which are the strong point of the new system are the same in both. This publication reflects an effort in the systematic transcription of languages other than Russian in Russia at that time.

Still I think Pīn Yīn is but a phonetic aid, not a transcription. It is my idea to develop a truly transcriptional system. Most if not all of the attempts in the past towards this aim failed because people tried to put too many things on the text line. As I see it, the space below the line is never used by any romanised system for Chinese. So my idea is to transcribe not only the pronunciation, which Pīn Yīn has already gracefully achieved, but also to transcribe the *radical* or bùshǒu as the following sentence which was the first one that I tried out shows, 'Zhāng Míng Lóng is a name of a person. You should not simply say Zhāng Míng Lóng because that is not specific enough. So Zhāng Míng Lóng is a name, and not a game. Let us see what the next line skip shall be". In this example the last word *Lóng* which means *a dragon* is a radical, which is indicated by an under-dot. The word *Zhāng* here comprises of two radicals, namely *gōng*, *a bow*, and *cháng* which means *long*; *g* represents the former, *c* the latter. The other word *Míng* used in this Chinese name of mine also has two radicals, *i.e. rì* which means *the Sun*, and *yuè*,

the Moon; *r* represents the former, *y* the latter. In this case if nothing is indicated underneath a word, then it is a phonetic transcription and thus subjected to ambiguity in the meaning. This system is therefore an extension to Pīn Yīn. In other words, what I propose here is a new transcription system which uses the phonetic system of Pīn Yīn. Once set out, there are much work to be done to ensure the isomorphism and the ease of use.

I came to Manchester in September 1999 expecting to a Ph.D. work in Language Engineering. I was assigned to work under the supervision of Dr. Peter Fawcett at the translation group. In one of the few meetings I had with him I mentioned to him that one of the reasons why I wished to do my Ph.D. in language and translation is that I would like to make electronic standards for Lanna and Thai. I had thought about the problem for about five years. In that meeting Peter asked me where one could find a book on Lanna grammar. After the meeting I thought about his question and as a result my approach to the problem slightly changed its course.

I was born in Chiangmai, the old capital of Lanna which is now a part of Thailand, so Lanna is my mother tongue. In a way Thai is also my mother tongue, but I only started using it at school. Both Thai and Lanna has a writing script which is unrelated to the Roman script used in Europe. I have found no books on the Lanna grammar at the several libraries in Manchester I normally use. I would have liked to write a grammar book on the Lanna language for Peter in romanised transcription. But in order to be able to do so, one need to have the transcription system in question first. This simply exists for neither Thai nor Lanna, nor indeed any of the languages in the Tai family. The same is also true for Chinese, which is also a tonal language. In the case of languages which are based on the Chinese characters, the numerous amount of characters, thousands of them, makes transcription possible only for the pronunciation. One can not distinguish the different words which have the same pronunciation from one another. In case of Thai where many alphabets may have the same sound, where vowels are in great number and where many exceptions in the pronunciation exist, such romanised writing system has often been deemed impossible.

During the Christmas vacation in 2001 I found a solution to the problem. The solution which I think is the best I have ever seen. I have rigorously tested it for Thai and I am convinced that it works well there. I have extended the system to Lanna, and it seems to be working well there too. I adapt it for both Japanese and Chinese, where I think a romanised writing which gives a one-to-one mapping can become possible, but there are more work to be done if only because of the shear number of their characters. For many reasons, Japanese has proved so far to be far more difficult to deal with than Chinese. The systems which I designed for the use with Lanna and Thai are based on the Pīn Yīn

system, developed in Russia and used in China, the romanised systems for Pali and Sanskrit, a small part from the writing of German, and the rest I myself designed. My aim is for systems that not only work, but also give likeable results.

All languages of the world form clusters. It is not difficult to imagine such clusters or groups of languages. One may ask what are the things which bind languages in the same cluster together. One possible answer may be their ancestral history. Languages will form clusters differently depending on what criteria we think bind them together. To me, languages are bounded together when they share a writing system in common. Because of this, Russian and Greek with their unique scripts seem very different from English, even though all of them are Indo-European languages, while on the other hand Hungarian are easier to read, and as a result looks more familiar, despite the fact that it belongs to a completely different family. Languages in Asia and Europe form three major clusters, namely the Indo-European, Chinese, and Tai clusters. To the Indo-European group belong most of the languages in Europe and India, as well as Iranian. To the Chinese cluster belong Chinese, Japanese and Korean. And to the Tai cluster belong Thai, Lanna, and many other languages including Ahom which is already extinct. The transcription systems which I designed will help bring these these three clusters of languages together and make the transfer of knowledges and experiences among them easier. This will help create a better cross cultural understanding, which will lead us closer to the globalisation of the world. After Japanese and Chinese, I plan to develop similar romanised writing systems for all the languages of the Tai family.

On the other hand, the thing which bind a group of people together is the dialect. Therefore people from Ireland living in Manchester form a local Irish community but people of Irish descendant who live in Australia or New Zealand never form such a group, because the Irish dialect is retained in the former while the latter either speak Aussie or Kiwi accent and thus identify themselves with their present respective countries. From this it follows that racism is not the hatred of races as such, but rather the aversion and prejudice against languages or dialects that are different from one's own. The Jewish community in the Nazi Germany, for instance, while able to use German, are bound together by Yiddish. In Lanna there is a story that during the time of the Burmese occupation, nearly three centuries ago before Ayudhàyạ fell for the second time, the Burmese would kill anyone they came across who had the distinctive Thai accent.

I develop these systems along side with macros on TEX. They are the experimental apparatuses by which I test the applicability and feasibility of each system. From these macros arise yet other systems of lower levels which can be used for writing using only standard ASCII characters. I other words, as a by-product of the development of these macros

are writing systems which one can use to write in a normal email Thai, Lanna, *etc*, using only roman alphabets, while at the same time retaining, in the form of certain characters, the tonal marks and accents, and with these the exact meaning of the original texts. Admittedly these still give a somewhat outlandish look, but to me they look less so than any other similar efforts that I have seen so far. Moreover they are more systematised and are easy to understand, and about as easy to use as Pīn Yīn.

Based on the graph theory, the coordination number of a language is defined to be the number of connections between one language and the others. Higher coordination numbers mean higher connectivities. This idea of connectivity and coordination number can also be applied to other things in the study of languages. Because a word can have more than one meaning, if one consider words as being sites, and the same meanings between them as bonds within a network, then the number of bonds leading away from each site is the coordination number of that site and the word it represents. On the other hand, one may think of two different kinds of sites, one representing the words while the other their abstract meanings. Then the sites of one kind can be mapped over to some sites of the other kind. This is similar to the previous case, where all sites are of the same kind, except that now each site of the second kind replaces the various bonds, in the former case, all of which have the same meaning. This reduction of duplicate bonds to unique items will come in handy when one comes to create a database for them. Since the sites of the second kind are all abstract description, their identities must be established in the form of definitions.

To me conventional languages, mathematics, and music are all languages. I treat each of them differently from the other no more than I treat Japanese differently from Thai. The brain, however, is divided into two hemispheres, the left and the right ones. The conventional languages as well as all the right-handed activities are looked after by the left hemisphere while geometrical languages and the left-handed activities the right hemisphere. Many great thinkers, for example Penrose and Hoyle, claim they think *visually*, the term used by Penrose for thinking in geometrical figures instead of in words, phrases or sentences. Obviously these great thinkers seldom read outside their specialised fields, or they have not done it enough, for their *controversial* issue whether one needs to think in words, or as sounds of the words, has already been answered at least as far back as 16^{th} century by Cardan, or more likely more than a thousand of years before that by Plato in his *Cratylus* (*cf* Sacks, 1989). It is possible for a deaf-mute as well as for a congenitally blind person to form units of speech and to understand the interconnections among them. Moreover, not only that these units of speech need be no sounds, they even need be no words. Either this is the case, or our definition of words has to be extended to cover both the Braille and Sign lan-

guages. The thinking in terms of combinations of abstract units instead of sounds is nothing short of a geometrical thinking. One only needs to start his first class of Sign language to see this, as I had done in 1998 the Japanese Sign language while in Japan. I have never been particularly good at Sign, but I find that gradually one comes to a point where one no longer attach words with signs, and thinks fully in terms of the latter. Therefore Japanese Sign has got nothing to do with Japanese. You can say Japanese using standardised signs, but then it would no longer be Japanese Sign but a sign transcription of Japanese. Also Japanese Sign is different from British Sign, French Sign, and German Sign for instance. Japanese Sign is, however, influenced by the Japanese culture. As an example, the sign which means *thank you* in Japanese Sign is a traditional gesture of a sumo, Sumo being a classic and national sport of Japan. There is no where in the world where people know how to watch Sumo, so there is little chance that the sign will be understood elsewhere even though it sticks to your mind like nothing does if you relate it to Sumo. One may say that the sign is metaphoric.

The study of deaf or blind people, with relation to the time of the onset of these conditions in each case and to people who are normal, is an important key which will lead to a better understanding of the working of languages and the mind. Languages are important because they are the only means by which we can be intelligent, by which we can be human. They are the things that bind the people of a community together and differentiate one community from the others. In modelling of a sociological network they are the things that decide the topology of the clusters.

The brain is a hardware which may resemble a network of some sort. Control engineers have been trying relentlessly to model their neural network after the synaptic actions of the brain cells. I think that except for the similar name their effort seems to be moving further and further apart from what they are trying to model, so much so that now it seems to me reasonably safe to say that the neural network of Control System and that of Neurology are two totally different things. I agree with Penrose that the brain is governed by quantum mechanics. Furthermore I think that understanding is the result of a percolation of some kind, therefore not localised to any specific point within the brain. Some ten years ago I read about medical experiments which show that in every human, including polyglots, there is always an interval of tension when one switches from one language to another. The only difference between normal people and polyglots is in the length of this interval, which is much shorter in the latter than in the former. The finding claims detection of spikes in the electrical signal within the brain at such transitions. If confirmed, this would show that the brain does not treat all languages as a single one but instead as different sets. At each switching from one language to another the brain somehow readjusts itself to accommodate

the new language. The existence of the spike would confirm that this is a percolative process, since it separates the two phases of the brain from each other, namely the ones which accommodates the language before and after the switching. At the time when I read about it, however, this study only explained what I thought was a most unusual and interesting, if not intriguing, experience. In the spring of 1990 while working in Budapest I happened one day to be standing in a queue in front of an embassy. I had on me a T-shirt which has the word *Bangkok* written in bold across the chest. One woman approached and asked me in Thai whether I was a Thai. I immediately understood what she said, but what gave me a cold sweat was that for as much as fifteen seconds all I could say in Thai to answer her was a yes. Towards the end of those dreadful fifteen minutes, which seemed to me an hour, I felt like fainting and had to squat down, and I think that she did the same. Then I asked her in my incoherent Thai to forgive me for I told her I found myself unable suddenly to speak my own language! Such had been my experience that when I read about the research work mentioned above it suddenly dawned on me that what happened then was my firsthand experience of the *language switching shock*, which I am now happy to rephrase as the *phase transitional shock* of the brain. At the time when it happened I had been thinking wholly in English for three months. There had been absolutely no Thais around. In fact that lady was the only one I met there. This together with the unexpected nature of the meeting helps towards producing a lasting memory.

That experience was not the only one either. The more languages I come to learn and use the oftener are my later experiences similar to it. But none of these has the degree comparable to that first one. In fact I notice them only because I had experienced *the real thing*, which they resemble though short of by a matter of orders. For example I find it equally at ease to speak either Lanna or Thai. But to switch back and forth between them is another matter which, not for want of practice, I still can not do without a certain level of anxiety. As another example, when I started this research in 2000 I shared the room C62 in the Mill with two other researchers, Dr. Daomin Hong and Zoran. As I program in Matlab I often find myself at times immersed and think in the language. Whenever this was the case and someone interrupted me with his conversation I would find myself for a brief period helplessly unable either to speak or to think in English. When you look at your own computer program written a long time ago it is not because you have yourself become less apt that you find it hard to understand. But rather it was because you need to get that state of mind when you wrote it to be able to understand it. In other words, yourself is no longer yourself unless it is in phase or in the same phase with it. Or should I say instead that yourself is always yourself no matter how many possible phases it may have? Such is a marvellous work of the human brain.

One step out of control and we have what we call in medicine *multiple personalities* where a single brain could house several separate persons, or a lunatic who finds it impossible to switch from the other phase back to his sociable self, in tune with the reality.

Here it may not be irrelevant to quote a passage from Stirling's belated reply, dated 16^{th} April 1738 , to Euler's praising letter written 8^{th} June 1736 , 'For after deliberations have been interrupted, not to say neglected, for a long time, patience is required before the mind can be brought to think about the same things once again.'

With the language of music, I conjecture without the necessary skill to proof that the theoretical activities of composing and orchestration is run by the left hemisphere while the sight-reading skill has more to do with the right hemisphere of the brain.

I have asked myself what the language of thought is, and what that of the unconscious thought. Although thinking is done consciously, I think that the percolative process which leads to discoveries or the understanding of something occurs in the unconscious activity of the brain which runs behind the scene like the background processes in Unix. Therefore a decisive answer or judgement may be conscious, but the activities leading up to it should have already taken place earlier as a percolation within the unconscious thought.

Thought itself may depend in some ways to the languages in which we think. Geometrical thinking could mean that the left hemisphere is doing most of the job, but it could also mean more than that. Languages are more than means to communicate information. They are the products of cultures and therefore are also information in themselves. When someone thinks in two situations using two different languages, he may be thinking a little differently each time. I find that my judgement changes, slightly I hope, but perceptibly depending whether I am in a Thai-, Lanna-, Japanese-, or English-speaking countries. This may have to do with the difference in the cultures or ways of life as much as the languages, and I think that the two can not be easily separated. As for the language of my thought, roughly speaking it was predominantly Lanna during my childhood until 1983, then it was English or Thai until 1996, and then Japanese or English until 1999, and thereafter it has been English. And even for the English language, since I was a child it must have been based on the language of, the Americans until about 1983, the kiwis until 1985, the British until 2000, and then it could have been only the written language for me since I started to write and have to forget what I have learnt.

The matter of transliterations has always occupied my mind. The name of Thai people can never be transliterated with sufficient satisfaction using any of the systems which exist now. Until 1985 or 1986 I used to write my name as *Tiyapun*. Aṃnạc, aka Ben, mentioned that *pun* is not a nice word in English and since there is no way I could go

wrong writing it otherwise I changed it to the present *Tiyapan*, which is what he suggested. Either in 1999 or year before that, I had some further discussion with him on why names like mine one should not be written in English as *Gidtisagg Teeyapann*, which is about the closest to the Thai pronunciation I could think of then, and why indeed could it not otherwise be written as *Kittixak Tiyapan*. My first name is quite a common name for the Thais and everybody writes it as *Kittisak* with an *s* not as *Kittixak* with an *x*, so if I wrote it as the latter I could make my name stand out from the crowd or so I reasoned. His comment gave me my present trademark *Kittix* as he said it looks well. I agree that it does because it looks symmetric and balanced. Originally I thought about opting for ">:Kittix" as the sign for the trademark, the front parts being a pictorial symbol of a pair of knitted brows and two eyes in accord with the informal Internet convention of 90°counter clockwise rotation, which makes it look like `>:Kittix` in emails. But later I decided to keep it simple and only kept the term coined by Aṃnạc. According to present transcription system which I have designed, my name is *Kittiśakdżi Tịyȧbandh*, and my middle name *Nui* becomes *Nhŭy*. But I will leave my name as it is since it is a proper name and there is an exception for that in every language. Such exception is very prominent in the case of the Japanese language where, strictly speaking, one could write for one's name any Kanji or Chinese character one likes and has it pronounced anything one wishes. In Japan, except in cases where there is a pronunciation written out in full, you are never absolutely certain whether you pronounce a name of your fellow countrymen rightly the way the owner of the name has in his mind. Although this posts no great a problem in these days when people tend not to make their names deviate from the norms, extending my present system to cover the Japanese transcription using the Roman alphabets is not easy. Chinese is much easier in comparison while French, German, and presumably all European languages should be yet simpler to deal with. My aim is nothing less than making a similar transcription system which works well for each one of the languages in the Tai family, and then perhaps for languages in other families as well. Like something which percolates, I feel that my understanding of the problem has past its most crucial point and this aim would not be too farfetched now. *Kittiśakdżi* is a word of Sanskrit origin which means *renowned*, *Nhŭy* is probably Thai in origin which also means *big* in Maori, while *Tịyȧbandh* is a combination between Chinese and Pali which means *related to the Zhāng family.*

Most names of the Thai people nowadays are coined from words in Pali or Sanskrit imported from India. Thais rarely introduce themselves by their *real* names in everyday life. Instead we use a *nickname*, which is either a mistranslation or a misnomer from the Thai word *jụ̀elèn*. I think that it the former rather than the latter is the case, that *jụ̀elèn* has

several meanings, one of which is *nickname*, and therefore that it should instead be translated either as *the other name* or as the *casual name*. In contrast to the real names which are usually imported words as mentioned above, these casual names are generally Thai in origin. Because Thai is a monosyllabic language, the casual names are thus normally monosyllabic. Apart from the real names tending to contain more syllables than the casual name, and rather more beautiful, to a European or an English speaker they also tend to have a more familiar look. This is because both Pali and Sanskrit belongs to the Indo-European language family, the same family to which both Latin and Greek belong. Many languages in India now are descendants of Sanskrit, and quite a few Thai names use the same words as, for instance, Hindi. But for the difference in the methods of transcription, Thai having no system to date as mentioned, many Thai names would have looked similar to those of Indians. For example, the name 'Chandra' is more correctly written as 'Candra', and in the system proposed here would read 'Candṙ' in Thai which, if written from a pronunciation, would probably read 'Jan'. In Pali, *canda* is the moon while *chanda* the love and contentment. Similarly my name 'Kittisak' when written using the present system as 'Kittiśakdżi' already looks closer to an Indian name.

Music is arguably the language of the mind. In the case of post-encephalitis patients who experience adverse effects from the L-DOPA (*cf* § ℵ), music generally improves their conditions. Because these effects seem to be the reactions in the subconscious selves, the language of the subconscious mind is likely to be a music of some kind. All living organisms have an underlying rhythms of life. Examples are breathing, heart beats, menstruation periods, and awakening-sleeping cycles. The mind, then, must likewise have rhythmic activities of its own. The only difference is that in case of the mind not only the rhythms, but also the melodies are important. Neither rhythms alone nor crooned melodies without rhythms improve the conditions of these patients, only melodies in combination with rhythms do. Not only animals, but plants too are affected or touched by music. When rose gardens install speakers to play soft, classical music it is intended not for visitors but the roses.

The languages of thoughts, on the other hand, may be divided into three groups, that is conventional languages, geometrical languages, and music. Since all of these are languages, and since all languages are translations, when we come to understand more the profundity of the translation processes involved inside our mind we will come a step closer to understanding consciousness. And even though robots as we understand them now are never conscious, the conscientious line dividing between beings and things may be thinner than we may think. We do not know whether such dividing lines, if they exist, mark a phenomenon of phase transitions of the percolation process. Before any artificial brain may become a separate consciousness we may need to understand more than we

do now about the quantum processes (*cf* Penrose, 1989). The difficulty experienced when we try to explain to someone a discovery or theorem that we discovered by intuition only confirms to us the importance of the translation processes.

The coordination numbers within, and between languages become important if we want to build a network of languages. The coordination number of a language reflects the affinity it has with other languages. This affinity may be taken, among other things, to be the writing system common to the others that the language has. Therefore English, French, German, Sanskrit, and other languages that have a well-defined romanised system share the same coordination number with one another, which is also the coordination number of the writing system itself. But a language may have more than one coordination numbers, each one of which it shares with the languages in the different groups it belongs to. Hindi and Sanskrit, for instance, while belonging to the same group with the other the Indo-European languages also form a separate group of their own through the Devanagari script shared between both. Chinese, Japanese, and perhaps Korean belong to another group through the fact that all of them are based on the Chinese characters. Chinese and Japanese are disconnected, or weakly connected, to the Indo-European group because even though each of them has an excellent romanised writing system, none of them can convey meanings accurately enough by using only this. Korean, on the other hand, can be counted also as a member of the Indo-European group because it has now become nearly totally a syllabic language with the use of the Chinese characters confined to only for proper names.

The coordination numbers within each language is more complicated. They depend in no easily definable ways on the numbers of the words, meanings for each words, alphabets, consonants, vowels and inflections of sounds. These are different for both Chinese and Japanese where the number of the radicals and their combinations plays a dominant role, and in the case of Chinese the number of sounds and inflections.

Deaf children who have never been exposed to a language think in pictures, and when they are taught language for the first time show a tendency to use metaphors. Therefore starting from the higher layer of thought to the lower layer of mind seem to be the adjectives, similes, metaphors, and finally music. This may explain why music and poetry, with their rhythms, rhymes, and metaphors, can touch the heart far better than university textbooks. Also, seeing that they are good at thinking in pictures, I wonder whether deaf children would have a higher potential to excel in the areas of mathematics and physics than normal.

Language, even in the smallest sense of the word, that is including only the national languages of the world, is still very important since it is the thing which holds a society together and segregates one society from another. Even when this greatly limited definition is adopted, it still plays

a major role in, for instance, culture and economics, and gives satisfactory explanations to diverse phenomena, for example culture shocks, economic crises, and the formation of economic, as well as politic groups. Language in its largest possible sense is exceedingly important since it turns out to be the glue which binds things together, take as only one example the case of mathematics and logic as the languages of science.

Language comes in various modes and forms. Sign languages, for instance, are geometrical in nature. Congenitally deaf people think in spatial terms, and this explains why they often make a good mathematician (*cf* Sacks, 1989). It is interesting to note that this mode of thinking is quite usual even in hearing mathematicians and physicists, many of whom say that verbal thinking plays but a minor part in their more serious thinking. But this claim is unnecessary if we think of verbal Language, Geometry, and Sign as all being languages.

There is as yet no writing systems for Signs that are easy to use. For this, I propose a writing system which uses the roman alphabets. I wish to develop such a system based on the following principles. Consonants represent the various body organs used, its forms and positions, while vowels the motions and movements. In other words, consonants represent those relevant things which are static in nature, whereas vowels those which are dynamic.

It is not unusual that a researcher may have a theme which recurs again and again in whatever he does, for example Galileo sees circles everywhere (*cf* Hankins, 1977). My themes are language and percolation, and I see them everywhere I look. It should be mentioned that my definition of language covers that of Geometry and Mathematics.

Thailand has been through a few percolation-like phenomena. The currency crisis in 1997 was one. This in turn started a chain of crises in other countries all across the east Asian nations, and spread to as far as New Zealand. In this globalisation economics, one can even tell which countries belong to the same economic group by looking at the extent of the spread of crises like this. Essentially neither the United States nor Europe was affected in any way.

The traffic situation in Bangkok, on the other hand, had always been so bad until the onset of the crisis, to a degree that one would never have believed possible until one actually sees it. Both the traffic and the economic crises share common causes, one of which is the non-decentralisation. The economic crisis both has the same causes of, and is caused by the traffic crisis.

In 1996 I started to look at the percolation probability of the traffic network in Bangkok. An economic model should be a network which has people as its entities. It should be centred in men instead of in money. Existing macro- and micro-economic theories are centred around money and put too little emphasis on people. No doubt they can never explain economic transitions. Money is only the language of economies, never

its structure, therefore a model based on money can be at best a model of a language, not a model of the structure. Language in general is the thing which binds structures together to form clusters.

If we accept this humanistic network as important in economic modelling, then we have to look at languages, for even though money may be the language of transactions and we could do well by studying its flow through the network of men, language is the thing which binds and segregate groups of people. There is no racism except that which arises from the difference in languages. For example, there are no Irish communities in Australia comparable to those which exist in Manchester because every Irish descendants over there speaks Aussie, with which they identify themselves, nor would the Chinese descendants in Thailand say themselves Chinese for the very reason, though they may not realise it, that they have never learnt Chinese.

If Language binds society together, then what is the thing that binds languages together? Linguistically the answer may be the common historical background, languages of the same family are in a way bound together; but practically it must be the writing. This explains why not only Chinese and Thai seem to be out of tune with a western mind, but also even the German language before both Wars with its typefaces containing in effect only two special characters, namely those for *sz* and *tz*, may appear to be Greek; and of course there is the Greek language itself with its unique script.

Signs are usually thought of as being different from verbal languages, not because the two are in actuality different from each other but because they can not be written, especially with the roman alphabets. Both Chinese and Japanese have their excellent phonetic transcription in roman characters, respectively called *Pīn Yīn* and *Rōmaji*, but apart from the imitation of sounds neither of these allows one to write anything meaningful. Thai have never had a passable phonetic, let alone writing system in roman alphabets. I have developed roman writings for Thai and Lanna. I have drawn an outline of my plan to develop those for Japanese and Chinese, and have so far have done some works along this line. I plan to develop a writing system for Signs which should even allow one to pronounce the words should one wishes to; each such enunciation would contain the essential spatial information.

How a writing system can act as a glue in a language should be clear to people whose first language is Chinese. Here is a language which whose different dialects are completely different from one another as to be incomprehensible, but whose people, wherever they may live across the globe, feel that they belong to a single and the same culture, all because of the writing.

On 12 April 2002 I am back in Thailand and in Jiangmhăị. We go together in Nhăung's car to Ạuḅkhạn, which is a national park which

covers Hạngd́ong, Mậe Vạng, Samoeng and Sanpậtaung. There are five of us including my brother and my parents. The country around here are igneous and limestone rocks. This is the source of the Khạn, Vạng and Vin rivers. Mountains in Thailand are from the Precambrian Period, which is the oldest of rocks on earth dated from the formation of the crust to approximately 600 million years ago. These includes the Puy and the Sudẹb mountains down to the southern part of Thailand. There is a precipitous gorge 30 metres high corroded by the Khạn River like the Grand Canyon by the Colorado River in Arizona. We drive along the Highway Number 121 for 15 kilometres, then turn right and drive on another 10 kilometres. Parts of the road are unpaved and winding. At one point the engine stops when we are in the middle of an ascent and I tell my sister how to negotiate a slope. You put on your handbrake, start the engine, engage it in the first gear and then slowly release the clutch pedal while depressing the accelerator pedal until the you feel no weight of the car on the handbrake. At this point the transmission power may replace the handbrake and you may safely release the latter before accelerating the car forwards. From the car park of Ạubḷhoang we walk about half a kilometre to the gorge.

The KhSMK in Bangkok now has day-passes and term-tickets for the buses. The normal day-pass costs ten bạd while the ones which also cover their air-conditioned vehicles (PA) is 30 bạd. The weekly ticket is 50 ḅ and the PA one 150 ḅ, whereas the month-ticket costs 200 ḅ or 600 for the PA's.

Buses at this time are namely Number 1 which goes from the Tok Road to the Tian Pier; 2, Saṃrọng – Pạkglaung Tảlạd́; 3, Mhạujit 2 – Sạn Canal; 4, Glaung Toey Wharf – Bhạsịcảroeỵ Pier; 5, Prẹm PIer – Cakrảvarrd́i; 6, Bra Pradậeng – Ḅạng Laṃbhụ; 7, Kvạng Canal – Họa Laṃbọng; 7 K, Buddhảmoṇdol 2 – Cakrảvarrd́i; 11, Pravẹṣ – Mạḅuygraung; 12, Hòay Khvạng – Ministry of Commerce; 13, Glaung Toey – Hòay Khvạng; 15, The Mall at Dậ Bra – Ḅạnglaṃbhụ; 16, Śrịṇảrongġa Garage – Surảvongśxa; 18, Iṭh Pier – Victory Monument; 20, Bra Cul Fort – Ḍind́ậeng Pier; 21, Dùng Gảru Flats – Culạlongkaurṇa; 22, Sạdhupradíṣṭha Garage – Bọdhikậew Garage; 23, Saṃrọng – Dẹvẹśṇa; 24, Prajạniveśṇa 3 – Victory Monument; 25, Brạeksạ Garage – Jậng Pier; 26, Mịnḅurị – Victory Monument; 29, Rangsit – Họa Laṃbọng; 32, Pạkkred́ – Bọdhi Temple; 34, Rangsit – Họa Laṃbọng; 36, Hòay Khvạng – Sĩ Brayạ; 36 K, Bọdhikậew Garage – Sĩ Brayạ; 37, Cạengrāun – Mảhạnạg; 39, Dharrmảśạstŕa University at Rangsit – Sảnạm Loang; 42, Bra Pier – Sao Jingjậ Circle; 45, Saṃrọng – Rạjprasongġa; PA 45 K, Pạknāṃ – Henry Dunant; 47, Glaungtoey Wharf – Ministry of Land; 49, Mhạujit – Sạmyạek – Họa Laṃbọng; 50, Bra Rạm 7 – Lumbinị Park; 53, Dẹvẹśŕa Circle; 54, Hòay Khvạng Circle; 59, Rangsit – Sảnạm

Lhoang; 60, Soan Sảyạm – Pạkglaung Tảlạ́d; 62, Sạdhupradi̇ṣṭha – Victory Monument; 63, Nảgaur Indr̆a – Victory Monument; 65, Pạknāṃ Temple in Nondảbụrị – National Theatre; 66, Prajạnivẹ́śn̆a 2 – Southern Coach Station; 67, Sảmian Nạrị Temple – Jàung Nondrị; 68, Sảmạe Daṃ – Bạng Lạmbhụ; 70, Prajạnivẹ́śn̆a 3 – Sảnạm Lhoang; 71, Soan Sảyạm – Dhạtudaung Temple; 72, Glaungtoey Wharf – Dẹvẹ́śr̆a; 73, Hòay Khvạng – Buddh Bridge; 73 K, Bọdhikảew Garage – Hòay Khvạng – Buddh Bridge; 75, Buddhảbụja Temple – Họa Laṃbọng; 76, Dhonbụrị Housings – Bloencit; 77, Sạdhupradi̇ṣṭha – Northern Coach Terminal; 79, Tảlĭngjan – Rạjảprasongg̀a; 80, Śrịnoaldharrmảvimol – Sảnạm Lhoang; 80 K, VPA 11 Village – Dạ̀ (pier) Bra; 82, Bra Pradạ́eng – Bạng Laṃbhụ; 84, Àumyh̆ặị – Glaung Sạn; 84 K, Mảhidol – Glaung Sạn; 90, Śrẹṣṭhảkic – Sảnạm Lhoang; 91 K, Sảnạm Lhoang 2 – Bra Pier; 93, SEA Games Participants' Village – Sĭ Brayạ; 95, Rangsit – Rạmgaṃhạeng University; 96, Soan Sảyạm (Siam) – Sao Jingjā̧; 97, Nondảbụrị – Songg̀ha Hospital; 99, Śrịyản Pier – Laṃ Sạlị Junction; 101, Mòang Temple – Bạng Mod́; PA 102 Express, Pạknāṃ– Central Department Store at Bra Rạm 3; 105, New Town Mảhạjay – Glaung Sạn; 107, Bạng Khẹn Garage – Glaungtoey Wharf; 111, Blụ Market – Bụggảlọ Circle; 112, Śrịṇarongg̀a – Victory Monument; 114, Khẹmạ Garage – Laṃlụkkạ Junction; 117, Hòay Khvạng – Khẹmạ – Nonda Pier; 122, Hòay Khvạng – Rạmgaṃhạeng University 1 – Mhạujit; 126, Bạng Khẹn Garage – Rạm. U. 1; 129, Bạng Khẹn Garage – Saṃrọng; 134, New Mhạujit – Bạng Bọadaung; 134 K, Ministry of Commerce – Glaung Căn Housings; 136, Customs Department – Cảtucakr Park – New Mhạujit; 137, Rạmgaṃhạeng – Rajád̀ạbhiṣẹk Circle; 138, Mhạujit 2 – Bra Pradạ́eng; PA 139 Express, Victory Monument – Rạm. Campus; 140, Victory Monument – Dhonbụrị Housings; PA 141 Express, New Town Mảhạjay – Culạ. U.; 142, Dhonbụrị Housings – Lao Temple – Pạknāṃ; 145, New Mhạujit – Pạknāṃ; 156, Sảtrịvidảyạ 2 – Lạd́brā̧w – Rạm Indrạ Circle; 165, Buddhảmoṇḍol Sạy 3 – Sảnạm Lhoang; 166 Express, Muangdaung Village – Victory Monument; 168, Soan Sảyạm – Victory Monument, or Rạmgaṃhạeng – Mịnbụrị – Soan Sảyạm; 178, Kảṣẹtr – Noalcandr̆a Circle; 179, Bra Rạm 7 Bridge – ASMD Junction; 180 Express, Sạdhupradi̇ṣṭha – Rạm. U. 2; PA 185, Rangsit – Glaungtoey; 203, Nondảbụrị – Sảnạm Loang; 204, KDM 2 – Rạjảvongśxa Pier; 205, Customs Department – The Mall at Dạ̀bra; 206, Kảṣẹtr University – *zauy* (lane) Udomsukh; 207, Rạm. U. 1 – Rạm. U. 2; PA 501, Mịnbụrị – Pạkglaung Tảlạ́d; PA 502, Mịnbụrị – Sị̀lom; PA 503, Rangsit – New Southern Coach Station; PA 504, Rangsit – Soan Dhonbụrịromẏa; PA 505, Pạkkred́ – Vongvian Yh̆ặị; PA 508, Pạknāṃ – Rạjảvaurảdiṣṭha Pier; PA 509, Nondảbụrị – Bạng Gạe – Mòang Temple; PA 510, Rangsit –

Bra Pradạeng, or Dharrmȧśạstŕa U. at Rangsit – Songġha Hospital; PA 511, Pạknāṃ – New Southern Coach Station; PA 512, New Mhạujit – Pạkglaung Tȧlạd́; PA 513, Rangsit – Pŭcào Sȧmingbrạy; PA 514, Suvindȧvongśxa – Sukhạbhibạl 3 – Sịlom; PA 515, Victory Monument – Mȧhid́ol U. at Śạlạyạ; PA 516, Dẹveśŕa – Bạng Bọadaung; PA 517, New Northern Coach Station – Lạd́ Krabạng; PA 517 Red, New Northern Coach Station – Lạd́ Krabạng Institute of Technology; PA 518, Victory Monument – Bọakhạw Village; PA 519, Central Department Store at Bra Rạm 3 – Soan Sȧyạm; PA 519 Red, Càoguṇ Dȧhạr Road – Glaungtoey; PA 520, Dharrmȧśạstŕa U. at Rangsit – Rạm. U. 1; PA 521, Nondȧbụrị Pier – Bra Pradạeng; PA 522, Rangsit – Victory Monument; PA 536, Śrị Ȧyudhȧyạ – Pạknāṃ; and PA 543, Khẹmạ Garage – Laṃ Lụkkạ.

There are also non-KhSMK buses, but they are likely to lose the ground unless they could catch up with some kinds of term-tickets or day-passes soon. This is true with buses in, for instance, Manchester anyway. These buses available now are namely the PA 7 which goes from Śuekṣạ Nạrị to Họa Laṃbọng; 8, Happyland Market – Buddh Bridge; 9, Bhạṣịcȧroeỵ – Śrịyạ̀n – Sạmsẹn Station; 10, Bhạṣịcȧroeỵ – Nạnglōeng; 14, Śrịyạ̀n – Jàung Nondrị; 17, Cạengrāun – Victory Monument; 19, Tȧlĭngjan – Dẹveśŕa Circle; 27, Mịnbụrị – Victory Monument; 28, Southern Coach Station – Rajȧyọdhin; 29, Rangsit – Họa Laṃbọng; 30, Nondȧbụrị – Southern Coach Station; 33, Pȧdumdhạnị – Sȧnạm Lhoang; 35, Sạdhupradíṣṭha – Sao Jingjā; 38, Rạjȧbhad́ at Candrkȧsẹm – Rạmgaṃhạeng University 2; PA 38, Mhạujit 2 – Rạmgaṃhạeng University 2; PA Sạy 38, Śuekṣạnạrị – Bạng Laṃbhụ; 39, Dharrmȧśạstŕa University at Rangsit – Sȧnạm Loang; 40, Southern Coach Station – Họa Lamboṇg; 43, Śuekṣạnạrị – Glaungsạn Pier; 44, Governmental Housings – Happyland – Tịan Pier; 48, Rạmgaṃhạeng University 2 – Bọdhi Temple; 51, Pạkkred́ – Bạng Bọ, or Pạkkred́ – Central Department Store at Lạdbrāw; 52, Pạkkred́ – Bạng Zùe Station, or Pạkkred́ – Mhạujit 2 (Northern Coach Station at Catucakr), or Pạkkred́ – Hòay Khvạng Market; 56, Krung Dhon Bridge – Bạng Laṃbhụ; 57, Dhonbụrị – Southern Coach Station; 58, Mịnbụrị – Pratụnāṃ; 64, Sȧnạmbịn Nāṃ – Sȧnạm Loang; 68, Sȧmạe Daṃ – Bạng Laṃbhụ; 69, Sȧnạmbịn Nāṃ – Victory Monument; 81, Àumnāuy – Bra Pĭnklào Bridge; 83, Tȧlĭngjan – Rạjd́aṃnoen College of Commerce in Dhonbụrị; PA 84, Àumyhăị – Cạengrāun Temple; 85, Cạengrāun Temple – Họa Laṃbọng; 88, Dùng Gȧru – Lạd́yạ̀; 89, Bangkok Technical School – Vongvian Yhăị (big roundabout); 90, Pȧdumdhạnị – Siam Commercial Bank's head quarter; 92, Glaung Tan – Songġha Hospital; PA 92, Lạd́ Krabạng Station – Victory Monument; 98, Hòay Khvạng – Klòay Nāṃdai, or Hòay Khvạng – Bejrbụrị; 99, Śrịyạ̀n Pier – Laṃ Sạlị Junction; 104, Pạkkred́

Pier – Mhạujit 2; 108, The Mall at Dà Bra – Rajàyọdhin Junction; 109, Glaung Kŭm – Họa Laṃbọng; 110, Bra Raṃ 7 – Dẹvẹśŕa; 113, Miṇbụrị – Họa Laṃbọng; 115, Soan Sàyạm – Sịlom; 116, Sànạmd́ạeng – Sạdaur; 120, Màhạjay New Town – Glaung Sạn; 123, Àumỵhăị – Sànạm Lhoang; 124, Màhid́ol at Śạlạyạ – Sànạm Lhoang; 125, Saṃsẹn Station – Ratànàkọsindŕa Sombhọj Bàuvaurniveś at Śạlạyạ; 127, Àrun Amàrindŕa – Bạng Bọadaung; 129, Bạng Khẹn Garage – Saṃrọng; 131, Miṇbụrị – Nhaung Cauk; 132, Bạng Cạk – Bạng Blị Housings; 133, Bra Khànọng – Bạng Blị Housings; 139 Express, Raṃ. U. 2 – Victory Monument – New Mhạujit; 143, Happyland – Lạd́ Krabạng Institute of Technology; 144, Miṇbụrị Market – Ròmklào; 146, Bạng Gạe – Outer Ring Road Circle; 147, D́ạwganaung – Outer Ring Road Circle; 149, Tàlĭngjan – Glaungtoey; 150, Pạkkred́ – The Mall at Bạng Kapi, or Pạkkred́ – Raṃ. U. 1; PA Sạy 150, Pạkkred́ – Raṃ. U. 1; 151, Lạd́brậw 71 – Miṇbụrị – Họatakhè; 152, Happyland – Sukhạbhibạl 3 – Ròmklào Housings; 154, Vajàràbol Housings (Gẹha) – Glaungtoey; 157, Àumỵhăị – Hòay Khvạng Market; PA 157, Àumyhăị – New Mhạujit; 159, New Southern Coach Station – Mhạujit 2; 162 Blue, Glaungtoey – Sàyạm; 162 Red, Glaungtoey – Suràvongśxa; 163, Buddhàmoṇḍol Sạy 4 – Hòay Khvạng; 164, Buddhàmoṇḍol Sạy 4 – Victory Monument; 169, Bạng Khundian – Pĭnklào – Vongvian Ỵhăị Circle; PA 170, Àumnāuy – Sànạm Lhoang – New Mhạujit Coach Station; 174, Happyland – Kạỵcànạbhiṣẹk Road – Buddhàmoṇḍol 4; 175, Blụ Market – Nonḍa Pier – ATK 3; PA 177, Bạng Bọadaung – Victory Monument Circle; 182, Raṃ. U. 2 – New Mhạujit; PA 183, Àumyhăị – Buddhàmoṇḍol Sạy 2 – Mhạujit 2; 201, Victory Monument – Sànạm Loang – Tàlĭngjan; 338, Rangsit – Pratụnāṃ Bra Indŕa; 356, Dharrmàśạstŕa University at Rangsit – Pạkkred́; 365, Pạknāṃ – Bạng Prakong Power Station; 367, Pạkkred́ Pier – Rangsit; PA 506, Pạkkred́ – Bra Prad́ạeng; PA 507, Pạknāṃ – New Southern Coach Station; PA 523, New Mhạujit – Rạjàmonggol School of Technology at the 6^{th} Canal; PA 525, Miṇbụrị Market – Mitrmaitrị Road – Nhaung Cauk Market; PA 526, Miṇbụrị Market – Rạṣd́ra Udiś Road – Nhaung Cauk Market; PA 529, Sàmạe D́aṃ – Central Department Store at Lạd́brậw; PA 530, Sàmạe D́aṃ – Happyland; PA 538, Śrị Àyudhàỵạ – Rạjàmonggol School of Technology – Pàdum.; and PA 545, Nondàbụrị – Saṃrọng.

There are also minibuses which includes the 11 K from Phạsukh Village – Pratụnāṃ; 40, Southern Coach Station – Họa Lambọng; 43, Pĭndaung Market – Dẹvẹśŕa; 44, Governmental Housings – Happyland – Tịan Pier; 46, Rạmgaṃhạeng University 2 – Raungmuang; 48, Rạmgaṃhạeng University 2 – Bọdhi Temple; and 74, Hòay Khvạng – Glaungtoey.

The micro-buses charges you a constant fee regardless of how far you go. To date there are 14 different routes, namely Route Number 1 from

Pạkkreḍ to Sịlom; 2, Fashion Island – Ḍạwgạnaung; 3, Sạyạm (Siam) Park – Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel; 4, Họamhạk Sports Complex – Southern Coach Station; 5, Future Park at Bạng Gạe – Northern Coach Station; 6, Central Department Store at Bạngnạ – Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel; 8, Sạyạm Park – Southern Coach Station; 10, The Mall at Bạng Gạe – Bạngkapi; 12, Rose Garden (Sạm Brạn Garden) – Northern Coach Station; 14, Sạmudrprạkạr – Vongvian Ỵhăị; 15, Sạmudrprạkạr – Northern Coach Station; 16, Future Park – Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel; 17, Sạyạm Park – Shangri-la Hotel; and 20, The Mall at Bạng Kapi – Bạng Rak.

Apart from these there are 117 vans linking together the various places in Bangkok.

The Kiwi people call the university a *varsity*, some of the British youngsters call it an *uni*. The Thais like to truncate the last vowel of a word, for instance *Rạma* becomes *Rạm*. If the syllable before it has a final consonant, the whole of the final phoneme could become silent, for instance *śakdí* (honour) which becomes *śakdíxi*. The reason for this seems to be because Thai words are always mono-syllabic, therefore imported words especially those from Pali or Sanskrit are shortened to reduce it to one syllable. As an example of this consider *ratana* (jewels) which becomes the mono-syllabic word *ratna*.

You are given no priorities if you are driving a bus in Thailand. Nobody will let you pull out, you will have to fight for yourself. But the driver is never alone on the bus. There is his partner who takes the money from you or look at your day-pass or term-ticket which ever one you have. He or she is called *krapáo* (pocket) for an obvious reason. These people were fifteen years ago more nimble and petulant. I used to look and marvel at them when they tilt themselves at a seemingly hazardous angle. The driver would drive relentlessly on, but while never holding on to anything at no time did his partner lose his balance. His body would sway to and fro like the reeds in the wind, automatically aligning itself according to the direction and magnitude of the acceleration of the bus. When it decelerated his body would tilt backwards as though there was a strong wind coming from behind, and when accelerated it would forwards as if now the wind came from in front instead.

Recently the language they use has become standardised and thereby uninteresting.

When I come to Thailand from Manchester on 23 December 2002 I have to run to the Piccadilly bus station to catch the 43A to the airport. The Singapore Airline flies off from Terminal 2, so I need to walk a long way. Last night I had not slept. I had just discovered how to do the indexing and the tables in TEX, but it was already too late to get it printed out in time to catch the plane. Anyway it is the culmination of TEX. This can be any listing of items each of which may contain a sublist, for instance the list of completed works listed by year where

each year may have more than one works. You give a running number, an opus number, to each item and number those that are in the same year, then two commands, one at the beginning to just read in the opus definitions, doing nothing else, and another to list all the opera at the end. The tables, for example the table of contents, list of figures, *etc*, are much more complicated because you need to know what values will be read into the memory when you read inside a paragraph, in a group, *etc*, and this still confuses me. I like the Campari with orange juice.

There is going to be the world jamboree for scouts in Thailand in 2003, which is only a few days away. For me, flying is the time to relax and reflect. Here we are in Zurich but not allowed to get off the plane. There is an ice hotel in Sweden, in a small village of Jukkasjärvi near Kiruna where there is the space research. The place is inside the Arctic Circle. The hotel and all its furniture are made from ice blocks. Inside the room the temperature is 3 – 6°C. The hotel only exists between November and April after which it melts away. I think dry vermouth is probably the worst drink on earth!

You could die from Deep Vein Thrombosis, or DTV, the blood poisoning caused by sitting for too long in an aeroplane's seat, only the economy class one that is. In Australia people have been suing airlines, including QANTAS. But the British says this is no accidents. Really I think Mozart is for the piano concertos while Beethoven the sonatas.

I arrive in Singapore, and then put my name down for the free tour, the Free New Asia-Singapore Tour. It is sponsored by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, the Singapore Tourism Board (STPB) and the Singapore Airlines (SIA).

It is the Christmas Eve today. There is a nice orchid garden, with plenty of explanations, here at the Changi Airport. The Mokara or Mokara Wai Liang, bred by C Y Mok in 1969, has five petals of yellow with red dots on them. Each flower is actually the inflorescence of flowers. There are varieties like the Mokara Chark Kuan, Mokara Mak Chin On, and Mokara Willie How.

The scientific name for the moth orchid is Phalaenopsis, from the Greek *phalaina* (moth) and *opsis* (appearance). Here the petals are white or purple. The orchid is in the family Orchidaceae, both words being from *orchis* which is Greek for the male reproductive organ. Orchids are used as antidepressants, stimulants and aphrodisiacs.

Also here there are Koi ponds. The Koi is the carp, in French *carpe* and in German *Karpfen*. Its scientific name is *Cyprinus carpio*. The Showa Sanshoku has three colours, namely black and red on white. In the context of the percolation theory, a on b means that b has percolated but not a. This is the same as, 'a against b in the background'. The Kin Matsubara, or literally *golden metallic pine cone*, is in rich gold with scales that have a colour like that of the pine cone. The Kohaku is said to be in red and white, but turns out to be orange *on* white. It is popular

in Japan. There is also the Shiro Utsuri, which is white on black.

The sunflower garden is on the third floor of Terminal 2. Sunflowers are *Helianthus spp*. They are planted here in the outdoor garden with plenty of sun. There are also beds of the Trailing Daisy, *Wedelia Trilobata*, which is used to aleviate symptoms of cold and flu, and is ideal for use as ground cover because it tolerates heat well.

I change some money. On the front of the $2 note here is the picture of Yusof bin Ishak, while on the back something is written about education. The Gibraltar's pound coin I have had in my pocket for a while, reluctant always to use it. On its tail side is the relief in the picture of two crenellated towers and a wall, together forming a shape of the letter U.

We go in two coaches to the Singapore River and make a circuit cruise there. One of the two Indians who came from the US says that he has lived and worked there for a few years. I am surprised, for he has no drawl in his accent. 'You don't talk like an American', I observe, to which he replies, 'I never try to have the accent'. American make-believe works perhaps because deep inside we all want it to work. The US pulls 50 countries together under a federal government, draws the best brains from the world over to work for them. Our guide explains to us about Feng Shui (wind and water), that architectural and interior designing rules of thumb in order to make your prosperity tick. Thus premises may have a large fountain in front of them, and inside the water falling down the walls. This is the core of it, but there are many other elements and details. One may call it superstitious, like Coleridge's albatross.

This free tour to the city is called BOAT. I met Jean, our guide, at the south free-tour point. You would be ignorant if you were a Singaporean and did not know Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles (1781 – 1826). He was a colonial administrator for the British Empire who was born in Jamaica. He founded Singapore in 1819 while he was the governor of Sumatra (1818 – 23), and in so doing secure for his Empire the control of Malaya. He had served in the British East India Company and had taken part in the capture of Java from the Dutch in 1811. He also wrote a history of Java in 1817, knighted that very year, and in 1826 founded the Zoological Society of London.

The East India Company is a commercial company, chartered by Queen Elizabeth I, from 1600 to 1858. It was given a monopoly of trade between England and the Far East. It ruled a large part of India during the 18^{th} century when a form of dual control of the colony was established by Pitt's India Act of 1784 that gives the power to both the company and the committee which reports to the Parliament in London. In 1834 its monopoly of China trade ended, and in the India Act of 1858 ended its control over the British India after the Indian Mutiny in 1857. The Indian Mutiny, also known as the Sepoy Rebellion, which lasted from 1857 to 1858 is the uprising by Sepoys (Indian soldiers) from Bengal to Panjab in the north to the central India.

Singapore has no rivers. What is called today as the Singapore River is in fact the sea. Similar to canals in Venice, it is the canal dug to lead the sea water into the land. When we are back at the airport, one passport is found to be missing. Someone has not handed in his passport again. This time only one, but last time there were three people doing this. We all left our passport at the airport before we came on this tour.

I have plenty of time to wait for my plane, so I come along again to another similar tour. It is not the same as the one I went with Jean because this time Salma takes us to the Sentosa. She explains to us about Feng Shui. The word 'sentosa' is Malay for *peace*. In Feng Shui you have water flowing inwards, for that means the retention of prosperity. We are driving on the highway that was built on reclaimed land. This is also the case with the Changi Airport itself and the large open space on the opposite side of the bay front where future offices are planned. All the infrastructures are already installed, including the Mass Rapid Transport, the Singaporean equivalent of the tube. Raffles came here in 1819, and soon reclaimed 25% more land. Sentosa used to be known by a different name when the pirates lived there. When the British developed it they found skulls. Independence of the country came in 1965. Between 1942 and 1945 Singapore was under Japan's rule. Earth was bought first from Malaysia, and then when that country would sell no more to them, from Indonesia.

I find the theatre on the third floor where you can sit and watch the film free of charge. I watch the Pinocchio, and think it rather spooky to see a boy gradually transformed into a puppet before my very eyes. So much for the computer techniques we have now! Pinocchio was written in Italian by Collodi in 1883.

On the plane to Bangkok I watch Nicholas Cape in 'The Family Man', this time in English, and I have no clues why I should always listen to him in French earlier. This time I order a Drambuie and a Cointreau. The Drambuie is a registered trademark and a type of Scottish whisky liqueur. I soon find out that the Campari orange rules anytime. I have one fruit spritzer only to find that it is just a mixture of different fruit juices. This plane goes to Narita after it stops in Bangkok, so there are many Japanese people. A Thai business man who sits beside me says that his name is Jack. He could have studied at the Science Faculty of the Chulalongkorn University, but decided to go to the *Baṇijàyákaṛ Ɗoenrua* (navigational commerce) school instead.

According to our percolation theory all changes are percolation (of course). It is not so difficult to see this if we consider these changes as a change of phase where, for example, water turns into ice and vice versa, and a peaceful society turns into mutiny. The Sepoy Rebellion mentioned above is only one example as such, but here as usual ly is the case the event that triggers it is thought to be absurdly small, which

makes the big event that follows it all the more nonsensical and unimaginable. The unexplainable nature of a phase change, for example why the Japanese attacked Pearl Habor and why the Germans followed Hitler like idiots, can and only could be explained from the view point of what goes on inside the social structure not at the critical point but during the conceptions and incubation period since well before those certainty of an event's. Unrest gathers by unseen degrees. When it is ripe it will definitely percolate through, when it will show off an either spectacular or flabbergasting event. What event triggers it is of no consequences whatsoever.

If we accept that creations are percolation and vice versa, then according to the Big Bang theory the universe percolated at that first creation from the singularity. The universe may either be expanding forever, stationary, or contracting after having expanded for a while. One knows this by looking at the constant that is named after Edwin Powell Hubble (1889 – 1953). The trouble is the value of this Hubble constant so controversial one had better call it a Hubble variable. However, were the universe to contract, everything will come together again one day when the destruction, the reverse Big Bang or reverse creation, will ensue. This point too must be a percolation point.

All our understanding fails us at a point closest enough to the original singularity. Our imagination fails us well before we leave the front steps, but our present theory gives us some appreciation of the time as early as 10^{-43} second after the Big Bang. I doubt that the science based on our experience will let us understand our singular original. God's work is also a creation and a singularity, since He creates the world out of nothing. But here, simply because His attributes are not definite, His Creation is limited to neither the Planck time nor, for that matter, to the Big Bang itself.

Our forefathers knew that the heaven is up there where the stars are. Jesus tells us, 'Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or there; believe it not (Matthew: 24.23),' and then, 'Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not (Matthew: 24.25, 26)'. Christ is nowhere to be found since he is here inside each of us, provided that we believe his words. In the point of view of someone who does not believe his findings, he has long ceased to exist, that is to say, he is long deceased. What he has found the Old Testament already knows. So he confirms what the OT says, that there is only one Father, and adds that for each of us there is also only one Master, that is our own self, and that we are all brothers. This results in the relationships among us that defy all the social conventions we know. We must understand him, therefore, when he says, 'But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is

in heaven (Matthew: 23.8, 9)'. Since all of us are star's dust, whatever creates the universe creates us. The whole universe has only one Father, and it follows that both the parents and the child have a common Father. Most of us, unable to live with this (before we know the explanation), write the original Father with the capital F to distinguish it from our respective earthly parents. It is difficult to say whether what Christ has discovered is the same as the Enlightenment of Buddhism. One thing at least is enjoyed in both Buddhism and Christianity, that is the fact that neither the former's Enlightenment nor the latter's God is well defined. The only way to explain this is that both are singularity which is out of the universe's experience let alone ours, therefore neither the God nor the Enlightenment comes with a definition. We may define our manager, but how could one possibly describe *our* Creator. He (here I personify) is a part of each of us, for otherwise the very idea of creating something out of nothing would lead to a paradox. But since we can not even see our own nose, how do you expect to see Him. Our eyes are only for looking at other things that He created.

Since each of us is a master of himself†, we should never put our self above other people. Consequently one should call oneself a master of nobody else, and should humble himself. No one is greater than anyone, and my only master and servant is myself.

Whether those people who wrote the New Testament knew about it we shall probably never know, but Jesus has to die in order to save us. Before the Crucifixion people either hated or followed him. In the post-Easter Christianity we believe in the Christ within ourselves, that is to say, the idea that Jesus has passed on to us. He wants us to be saved, and therefore Peter had to deny him thrice before the cock crow. For those of us who believe in himself, his teaching will ring the bell and leads to the discovery of God and that part of the Creator in us which binds us with the whole matter of the universe. In a way the twelve disciples of Christ are less lucky than us because they followed Jesus until his death while the only Jesus that works is the same which we find in ourselves through his teaching. For in Matthew 21.23 he told the Zebedee's sons and their mother, You will indeed drink My cup, but to sit at My right and My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father. I is impossible for them to sit beside themselves if they accept the 'Me' that he meant. The day of Judgement is after our death. Then he who believes will come to the Father as Christ does. He becomes one with the universe and is felt by those people who believe, and for this lives forever. Not all of us will come to understand this, 'But many now first will be last, and the last will be first (Matthew: 19.30)'.

Some dentists are wicked. I am unlucky when in March 2003 I have the

† Here 'he' means a human being in general.

gold inlay in my upper right first molar checked, not by dentist students as I usually did but by their teacher. She may be a lecturer but she must be worse than most of her students. Two dentists in Manchester, that is Julia and Mr. Rose, both said less than one year ago that although the gold is not well fixed there is no need to do anything now. One should wait for a sign of leakage first. Now Candrcàrị looks at the bite-view x-ray film, which still looks exactly the same as those being ooked at by the two British dentists mentioned, but immediately says that it has leaked and must be removed 'to see what the underneath is like.' Even before removing it she says she wants to do a root treatment, to which I say 'No' by the look of its familiar internal image. So for an enormous fee she removes the gold. 'It still looks well underneath', she says, but still stoutly maintains it has decayed when asked. Then under the anaesthetic she strongly insisted she unnecessarily removes all the surrounding good dentine. Just before she takes the impression I ask to see what my tooth looks like, and when I see it in the mirror I say, 'Why, there's a big hole now'. So she goes on to take away another side of the tooth, which makes it opened in three sides now instead of two previously. Doing this without asking for my consent despite my having several times from the start that I want least parts of the tooth taken must clearly be against all codes of practice of a dentist. For the temporary fixing while waiting for the lab to make the composite inlay, a permanent composite material is used, but for three weeks, that is from 12 March to 2 April, my tooth is suspiciously so sensitive to anything. As though the whole thing is not already bad enough, the receipt for the first day is horrendous in its amount and contains fictitious items all over the place. In it my tooth has been root-treated, and the permanent composite used makes it even more expensive. On that latter date when I see her again to have the thing fitted. She grates away at the dentine without any anaesthetic, which leaves me traumatised for the whole day, with the after-shock another week thereafter.

The Thai New Year is during 13 to 15 April, just before Easter. Because it is mid-summer in Thailand, there is a water festival where you pour water on people. This year the virus causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome arrives for the first time just before the festival. If this is the same as other new viruses which come from outer space and comets as Hoyle says they do, it seems to have been able to established a reservoir on Earth as they say it is contagious. According to Hoyle, regularly sipping water helps wash protective capsules which contain virus down to our stomach where the whole thing can be digested.

In Jiangmhăị my sister who is a neurologist suggests that I have my tooth looked at by Niramol. The latter takes away parts of both the inlay and the tooth and put in some composite bonding. This makes the first molar lower, so that now the premolars have to bear the weight when I put my teeth together. This probably is not a good thing for

them. Moreover the removal of the parts of the tooth bordering the inlay to replace them with composite may prove later to make the seal weaker and leads to later leakages. As some may say, with dentists the case usually is 'Out from a pot into a frying pan'.

There are two kinds of dentist, namely conservative one and the other kind which is the opposite of it. The former is generally the case in England whereas the latter in America. New Zealand follows England's case while Thailand does America's. But younger dentists everywhere including those in Thailand and New Zealand follow the nonconservative way.

A conservative dentist tries to do the least to your teeth, only things that are necessary. But a nonconservative dentist attacks a problem, which is sometimes imagined, head-on. For example, if he find a dimple in your tooth however not yet sensitive he would foretell that one day there will be caries there, and for that imagined decay would remove much of the surrounding parts of the tooth and fill the pit resulted with some alien material. At Cuḷa I complain to Màlivalỳa who takes me to Vạsànạ to whom I relate the same thing again and again one more time to Vidàyạ when he joins us. The latter two have studied at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Both are in the management of the dental college. The insurance system the English use for their health services seems to be no good. But their research works are excellent.

The first antibiotic was discovered in England, but the English physicians use antibiotics but cautiously, which in many ways is a wise thing to do. By contrast Thai people are literally fed the strongest antibiotics available by their doctor. All my teeth have been ruined by the Tetracycline copiously given by Pradhạn to whom my mother says she always took me while I was very young. But the memory of my early life seems to be have been blotted out by some mechanism or others, so that I can remember nothing. Experiences have taught me that a conservative doctor is usually far better than one who is too keen on doing things to you. Because there are these devilish people about in the health profession, decent doctor and dentists hate them no less than their poor patients do for the very reason that a single fish rotten rots the whole basketful of fish. Codes of conduct in your profession asides, when shall a heathen know compassion? They perhaps know not what they do, but still *procul, O procul este, profani.*

Under the trademark name of Kittix I publish in March 2003 the book *Percolation within percolation and Voronoi Tessellation*, in April 2003 *Thai grammar, poetry and dictionary* and *A Lanna in town*, and in May 2003 *A Kiwi Lanna* and *A British Lanna* (there are no misprints like the one on the page 70 of this book where what was written as 'the temperature of -224.8°C' is in fact 'the temperature of -2°C and the salinity of 24.8', and I thank M Allens for pointing this out to me). People think that I am crazy, for I risk being plagiarised publishing

books I write on my own this way. But what else can I do, since I want to write and teach. As a sword teacher I do not want money from my students. So if you borrow my works nobly, that is absolutely fine with me. *Plagiarism* means only if you not borrow but *steal* someone else's works. This means that, for instance, you pass my work as yours and give me no credits due. If you did this, then I pity you because you lack the tiniest imagination. But having read my books, to me you are still my students and I wish you all the best. What you badly need is God. If you are a Buddhist, you do not have to switch to Christianity. The sayings of Buddha and Jesus are exactly the same. Try reading the Bible, both testaments if possible. Like all great works you need to read it more than once before it percolates and you understand it. I can safely say that I understand it now. *Safely*, because there can be more than one interpretations, but at least the one I have arrived at through Me is based upon a strong foundation, the strongest one of course to me at present. Never plagiarise! but nobly borrow and multiply!

There is a myth which says that Buddhism is the only ancient belief that stands up to reason. But in fact Buddhism only differs from religions that have a god in that it does not try to explain the problem of the Origin. If it did, then its Truth would have become the God. All the time we look down upon our ancestors and see them in the light of our technology. But evolution is never that quick, and the thousands of years which separates us from them could mean no such great differences between them and us. On the other hand, the brains of the present generation are all cluttered with knowledges and information, which could imply a reduced efficiency. But still we look on them whose languages were so grammatically complicated that they elude us.

There is either one god or none. Even in cases of religions where there are more, there is usually one among them which is the creator of all the others. In view of the Origin, we are all a part of the God which pervades all of us. The microwave background radiation, that remnant of the Big Bang, permeates the whole universe. Whoever believes this knows that, no matter how tiny he may be, his is the direct access to God. And we are talking about *everything* here, so our soul is also a part of this God. In Bhagavad Gītā, for instance, the Lord says†, 'The unreal hath no being; the real never ceaseth to be ; the truth about both hath been perceived by the seers of the essence of things'. The *real* here is not our physical bodies but whatever underlies all our atoms and retains its, necessarily non physical, property both in the everyday life and at the Singularity. Arajuna (in Thai Ạurảjun) does not want to fight his enemies. He says, 'For I desire not victory, O Krishna, nor kingdom, nor pleasures; what is kingdom to us, O Govind, what enjoyment, or even life?' But Kṛiṣảna replied that men are a part of the Whole, and

† *cf* M W Burway. *Bhagvad Gita.* Asian Publication. 1981.

therefore are indestructible. Even if we consider death, it is inevitable and we should never grieve over it. Instead we should dwell alone in the Pure Reason. The concept of god is arrived at by a similar manner to that by which a mathematician arrives at his definitions. This explains why societies which have a god value mathematicians higher than those that have none.

Kṛiṣna tells us that action is better than inaction, and that we should render all actions attractive, because, 'All actions are wrought by qualities of nature only. The self, deluded by egoism, thinketh "I am the doer"'. If we accept him then he is a part of ourselves and what he says becomes what we ourselves say. Most people who read the *Bhagavad Gītā* say that it says that we should believe in Kṛiṣna. But all the latter says is essentially for one to believe and find refuge in 'Me'. If we agree with his words, then this *Me* is a part of us, for has he says, we 'cometh unto Me'. Neither does he seem to mind the usual interpretation that we should find refuge only in him as the Kṛiṣàna that is separate from us, for he says, 'However men approach Me, even so do I welcome them, for the path men take from every side is Mine, O Partha'. You believe, in other words, either the Me within or the Me without. The usual interpretation of this work would have it that Kṛiṣàna begins his teaching by philosophically reasoning with Arajuna, and then later instead of developing along the same line of reason switches to the superstition where the latter should blindly follow him everywhere. A more likely interpretation is that after having passed the test for his fist lesson of detachment, what Arajuna needs next is to break away from the illusion of the Kṛiṣàna as something outside himself. It may be true that He is out there too, since he is everything, but He is also here within yourself, and you can reach Him by a primary link without aids of the secondary ones.

> Know Me, O Partha, as the eternal seed of all beings. I am the Reason of the Reason, endowed, the splendour of splendid things am I. And I the strength of the strong, devoid of desire and passion. In beings I am desire not contrary to duty, O Lord of the Bharatas. The natures that are harmonious, active, slothful, these know as from Me; not I in them, but they in Me. All this world, deluded by these natures made by the three qualities, knoweth not Me, above these, imperishable. This divine illusion of Mine, caused by the qualities, is hard to pierce; they who come to Me, they cross over this illusion.

It is extraordinary, don't you think, that all the galaxies of the universe are one. Knowing this it makes all our differences and wars seem a mere tempest in the teapot, and even this metaphor seems already too big!

There is a myth which says that in Asia families are bigger than those in the EU. How big a family has should be to be enough, and how large

the home needed? The Ḅaṇgkauk of Rama I and II as indicated by the Lhauḍ Canal tripled to become Rama III's Bangkok with the Ǒṇgwă̆ṇg (Ǒṇg Ă̆ṇg) Canal, before it sextupled with the Phảḍung Krungkảṣẹ̣m Canal to become Rama IV's city. But the family of God includes everything, and has the universe as its home. By definition it is not possible to run out of rooms there.

Sunday 4th May 2003, we have a long breakfast. Ben leads the conversation on what games we could play at the table. His is the game which starts from three players where P asks Q what R would do in a certain situation. The situation gets more complicated when the number of players increase, P now asks S why Q answer that way. Roxana starts off in a simpler version by asking each one of us in turn whether Ben would rather never had one of his favourite piece of furniture, or have had it for some time and then lose it. Except for Dawn who thinks that Ben would choose the first choice, most of us think that he would choose the second one, to which Ben agrees. This question is a profound one. For if you choose never to have it in the first place, then applying the same reasoning to life you would rather yourself never have born.

Kau (island) Kreḍ is an island in the middle of the Càobrayạ River just off the *ambhọe* (district) Pạkkreḍ in *cangvhaḍ* (province) Nondảḅuriṇ. Here there are kilns making earthenware and the *rạmay* (Burmese) temple, Pảrảmayyikạvạs, repaired in 1874, is more than 200 years old. The temple is known in Thai as *vaḍ* (temple) Pạk Ă̆w. The pier to cross over on a ferry to this temple is not the main pier at Pạkkreḍ but a short walk to the left of it. We walk through the Sảṇạmnhụa temple, turn right once and then left. The ferry costs 2 ḅạd. The river we cross here is the Laḍkreḍ river, which is in fact a by-pass canal. The Càobrayạ River goes a long way around the island. A circuit walk covers 1/3 of the island, and that is about all there is. You can never get lost here unless you try. The path takes you through this Burmese village, and could take one or two hours depending on how often you stop along the way.

Thus within God is Christ within which is Me. You may draw a circle representing C inside the G, and like wise another M inside the C, and call these combination GCM or the other way round. It is interesting, in particular to me, how the acronym TNK of Judaism is the Torah (Pentateuch), Nebi'im (prophets), and Ketubim (writings).

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Lector benevole. – Victi vicimus.